

THE COMPLETE
LETTER-WRITER.

CONTAINING
FAMILIAR LETTERS
ON

The most common Occasions in Life.

ALSO,

A variety of elegant Letters for the Direction
and Embellishment of Style,

ON

BUSINESS, COURTSHIP,
DUTY, MARRIAGE,
AMUSEMENT, FRIENDSHIP, and
LOVE, OTHER SUBJECTS.

To which is prefixed,

A plain and compendious GRAMMAR
OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

WITH

Directions for writing LETTERS, and the proper
Forms of Address.

At the End are given

Forms of MESSAGE-CARDS, and a copious ENGLISH
SPELLING DICTIONARY.

FIFTH EDITION, greatly enlarged.

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P R E F A C E.

AS a great part of the intercourse of mankind has ever been transacted by letters, it is a just reflection upon any man, especially in this more refined age, not to be able to acquit himself handsomely in this respect. The occasions to do this are so very numerous, and the shame of doing it ill so great, in low as well as in high life, that every endeavour to render them more perfect in this accomplishment, is at least entitled to a candid reception.

There have been many attempts towards a work of this sort; and though it were unkind to detract from the merit of such labours, yet we must observe, that those who have hitherto reached our notice, fall very short of the end proposed. It would be a disagreeable task, to single out the imperfections in other performances of this kind; therefore we shall only observe, that some of them, however, are here supplied.

In the first place, the persons for whose use this collection is intended, are presented with *A very plain and compendious Grammar of the English Language*: to which are added, directions how to address persons of all ranks either in writing or discourse. This, we presume, is laying the foundation of our design well, and as it ought to be. The rudiments of a tongue once obtained, we proceed easily to raise our superstructure; without this we do nothing.

Next is an introduction, containing directions for inditing proper letters on most occasions, and the sentiments of several eminent authors on epistolary writing.

But the chief branch of this design, and which indeed composes the main body of this work, is a proper collection of letters, by eminent authors, upon subjects very various in their nature, and therefore not easily thrown under regular classes. *Business, duty, amusement, affection, courtship, friendship*, and a multiplicity of other affairs that may require a *letter*, are here made the subject of ours; so that on most occasions no person can be at a loss for a pattern to direct him. And it is from this great variety of examples for *style* and *manner*, a *grammar* for writing true *English*, and other necessary directions, that we presume to call this performance by the name of *The Complete Letter writer*; such a number of letters being inserted as to answer the purpose almost of every individual, from the boy at school, to the secretary of state. Nor let it offend the delicacy of any reader, that he will here meet with many epistles of the lower class. These could not be omitted without deviating from the grand point in view, namely, *General Utility*.

In the end are given a variety of message-cards, designed for persons of every station: and to assist the unlearned, a spelling dictionary is annexed, containing the greatest number of the most common English words.

CON-



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RULES

RULES for READING, and particularly of the EMPHASIS
belonging to some special word, or words, in a sentence.

IN order to read well, observe the following directions.
1. Take pains to acquire a perfect knowledge of the sounds of the letters in general. 2. Do not guess at a word at first sight, if you are not well acquainted with it, lest you get a habit of reading falsely. 3. Pronounce every word clear and distinctly. 4. Let the tone of your voice in reading be the same as in speaking. 5. Do not read in a hurry, for fear of learning to stammer. 6. Read so loud as to be heard by those about you, but not louder. 7. Observe your pauses well, and never make any, where the sense will admit of none. 8. Humour your voice a little according to the subject. 9. Attend to those who read well, and endeavour to imitate their pronunciation. 10. Read often before good judges, and be thankful when they correct you. 11. Consider well the place of the *emphasis* in a sentence, and pronounce it accordingly. By *emphasis*, we mean the stress or force of voice that is laid on some particular word or words in a sentence, whereby the meaning and beauty of the whole may best appear: this, with respect to sentences, is the same as *Accent*, with regard to syllables.

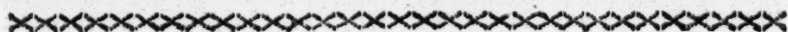
The emphasis is generally placed upon the accented syllable of a word; but if there be a particular opposition between two words in a sentence, whereby one differs from the other but in part, the accent is sometimes removed from its common place, as in the following instance: *The sun shines upon the just and upon the unjust.* Here the stress of the voice is laid upon the first syllable, in *unjust*, because it is opposed to *just* in the same sentence; but without such an opposition the accent would lie on its usual place, that is, on the last syllable; as *We must not imitate the unjust practices of others*

The great and general rule how to know the emphatical word in a sentence, is, *to consider the chief design of the whole*: but particular directions cannot be easily given; except that when words are evidently opposed to one another in a sentence, they are *emphatical*; and so is oftentimes the word which asks a question, as, *Who, What, When, &c.* but not always; for the emphasis must be varied according to the principle meaning of the speaker.



A

PLAIN and COMPENDIOUS
GRAMMAR
OF THE
ENGLISH TONGUE.



Of GRAMMAR.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ Grammar is the art of speaking and writing
✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ any language right and properly; and con-
✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ sists of four parts, *Orthography*, *Etymology*,
✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ *Syntax*, and *Profody*.

Orthography teaches how to spell and write every word with proper letters; as *nation*, not *nashun*; *oration*, not *orashun*; *did* not *dud*; *foot* not *fut*; *tomb*, not *toom*, &c.

Etymology teaches the explanation or kinds of words, their derivation, change, analogy, or likeness to one another in any language.

Syntax teaches the right placing or joining of words together in sentences.

Profody teaches the accent and quantities of syllables, pronunciation, and art of making verses.

Of Orthography and the power of letters.

A Letter is a mark or character of a single sound in speech. There are twenty-six letters in the *English* language, viz. *a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z*, called vowels and consonants.

A vowel is a letter which makes a full and perfect sound of itself, without adjoining any other letter to it. There are five marks for vowels in the *English* tongue; they are, *a, e, i, o, u*, and *y* at the end of words, for *ie*. *Y* is also a vowel in the middle of words, but all

B

such

Such words as have *y* in the middle are of *Greek* origin; and each of these vowels have two general sounds, that is, a long and a short sound; the short sound made long, by adding final or silent *e* at the end, as *bab, babe; her, here; fir, fire; rob, robe; tun, tune*. So when these vowels end a syllable, they are usually long, but generally short in all other positions.

Of the single consonants.

A Consonant is a letter which cannot make a perfect sound without adding some single or double vowel either before or after it; *ib, or be; eat, or tea*; and therefore derives its name from confounding or sounding together with the vowels. Nevertheless, it may be defined, a letter shewing the several motions and configurations of the parts of the mouth, by which the sounds of the vowels are variously determined.

The single consonants are twenty one in number, *b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z*; and are divided into mutes (by which is meant letters that are not pronounced, though wrote) and half-vowels; four of the half-vowels are called liquids. A mute is a letter which cannot make a sound without a vowel, as *b c d f g h k p q t*. A half-vowel is a letter which makes an imperfect sound without any letter added; as *s* is expressed by hissing, *r* by a quivering of the tongue; these are *l m n r s v x z*. *H* is an aspiration or breathing; and *j* and *w* are neutrals, having both articulate sounds, especially *w*, which sounds every where *oo*, and should be so pronounced.

Of the double consonants.

WHen two or three consonants meet together, we call them double consonants, and of these some are fit to begin words or syllables others to end only; we call the first initial, or beginning, the second final or ending, double consonants

They are forty-one in number, and are necessary to be understood, for the better knowledge of the division of syllables; these are, *bl, br, ch, cl, cr, dr, dw, fl, fr, gl, gn, gr, kn, ph, pl, pr, rb, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn,*

fn, sp, sq, st, sw, th, tr, tw, wh, wr, phr, sch, scr, shr, spl, spr, str, thr, thw.

Rules for true spelling and right division of the syllables of long words.

A Syllable is a complete sound uttered in one distinct breath; as *so, of, in, which, good, earth, &c.* Letters serve to make syllables, and syllables words, &c. One single or one double vowel only, or any one of the single or double vowels joined to any one of the single or double consonants, will make a syllable. No number of consonants can make a syllable without a vowel; as *f t r n g t h* can make no syllable of themselves, but if I put in *e* betwixt *r* and *n* thus, *strength*, it makes a syllable and proper word; and therefore as many vowels, single or double, as are found in a word, of so many syllables does that word consist, which are never above seven or eight, and few words have so many; as *good*, one; *seem-ly*, two; *in-form-er*, three; *per-pe-tu-ate*, four; *de-po-pu-la-ted*, five; *so-lem-ni-za-ti-on*, six; *tran-sub-stan-ti-a-ti-on*, seven; *in-com-pre-hen-si-bi-li-ty*, eight.

A Monosyllable, is a word of *one* syllable.

A Disyllable, is a word of *two* syllables.

A Trisyllable, is a word of *three* syllables.

A Polysyllable, is a word of *many* syllables.

There are five general rules for the true division of syllables.

Rule 1st. When a single consonant comes between two vowels, it goes with the last vowel in dividing the syllables: as *a-bate, ca-bal, de-cay, glo-ry, e-vent, wo-men, a-bove, a-mong, di-vine, &c.*

Rule 2. When two consonants meet in the middle of a word, between two vowels which are not proper to begin a word, they are parted in dividing the syllables: as *wed-ding, ac-cent, vir-gin, mut-ton, but-ter, trum-pet, bar-gain, &c.*

Rule 3. When two or three consonants meet between two vowels that are proper to begin a word, then they go with the last syllable in the division: as *de-*

prive, resplen-dent, bro-ther, re-prieve, a-bridge, ta-bret, re-strict, &c.

Rule 4. When three or four consonants meet between two vowels which are not proper to begin a word, the first consonant is always kept with the first syllable in the division : as *sub-tract, ag gravate, af-flict, congru-ity, con-struct, in-scribe, &c.*

Rule 5. When two vowels of different sounds meet in the middle of words, they are parted in the dividing syllables, as *li-ar, re-al, ri-ot, tri-al, li-on, be-ing, vowel, &c.*

Compound words are always spelt as their simples ; thus, *crafts-men, gold-smith, gazing-stock, ship-wreck, trans-act, dis-unite, un-equal, &c.*

Derivative words are always spelt as their primitive, thus, *tempt, tempt-ed ; second, second-ary ; covet, covet-ous ; form, form-ed, &c.*

But when the primitive ends with a vowel, and the syllable which is added begins also with a vowel, then the first vowel is always dropt, and the sound of the preceding consonant is softened by the subsequent vowel, as *ape, a-pish ; fame, fa-mous ; love, lo-ved ; give, gi-ver ; move, mo-ving ; hate, ha-ting ; dance, dan-cing ; trifle, tri-ling, bubble, bub-ling. &c.*

Observe that all derivative words ending in *ing* are active participles, formed of verbs which are their primitives ; and where the leaving out *e* in this participle would cause any confusion in the sense, it is better to retain it ; as from the verb *finge*, write *fingeing*, and *finge-eth*, to distinguish it from *singing* and *singeth*. But it is to be observed that this *e* is not dropt before *able*, as *advise, advise-able ; desire, desire-able ; agree, agree-able ; change, change-able, &c.*

If the additional syllable, which makes it a derivative, begins with a consonant, then the vowel in the primitive is always retained, according to the rule of derivative words ; as *love, love-ly ; like, like-ness ; fine, fine-ly ; time, time-ly, &c.*

And

And when the primitive word ends with *y*, it is changed into *i* in the derivative; as *duty*, *duti-ful*; *crafty*, *crafti-ness*; *angry*, *angri-ness*; *envy*, *envi-ous*, &c. But *y* is retained before the vowel *i*, as *testify*, *testify-ing*; *multiply*, *multiply-ing*; *envy*, *envy-ing*; *deny*, *deny-ing*, *apply*, *apply-ing* &c.

And when a word of one or more syllables ends with a single consonant, and no diphthong goes before it, and the accent lies on the last syllable, then that consonant is always doubled in the derivative; as *man*, *man-ned*; *pen*, *pen-ned*; *fan*, *fan-ned*; *stir*, *stir-red*; *tin*, *tin-ned*; *sin*, *sin-ned*; *stop*, *stop-ping*; *drop*, *drop-ping*; *tun*, *tun-ned*, &c.

Of primitive and derivative words.

ALL words are either primitive or derivative, simple or compound. A primitive or simple word is not formed of any other, as *man*, *hope*, *good*, *kind*, &c. A derivative word is a primitive or simple word, with the addition of a syllable or syllables to the same, such as *able*, *al*, *ance*, *ary*, *ate*, *ed*, *en*, *er*, *es*, *est*, *eth*, *ing*, *ish*, *ism*, *ist*, *ize*, *less*, *ly*, *ness*, *ous*, *y*.

A compound word is formed of two or more simple words; as *wheel-wright*, *ship-wreck*, *school-master*; or of a simple word and syllable called a preposition, set before it; as *dis-please*, *un-fit*, *con-found*, &c.

Of the prepositions that are used in the composition of English words, their signification and use.

THE English prepositions used in the composition of English words, are *a*, *be*, *for*, *fore*, *mis*, *over*, *out*, *run*, *up*, *with*.

A. Signifies as much as *on*, or *in*; as *a foot*, *a-shore*, *for on foot*, *on shore*.

Be. Signifies *about*, as *to be-sprinkle*, that is, *to sprinkle about*; *to be-stir*, i. e. *to stir about*.

For. Denies, or deprives, as *forbid*, i. e. *bid it not to be done*; *forsake*, i. e. *not to seek it any more*.

Fore. Signifies as much as *before*, as *to fore-see*, i. e.

to see it before it comes to pass; to forbode, i. e. to tell before it happens.

Mis. Is always used in a bad sense, and denotes defect or error; as *mis-deed*, i. e. an ill deed; to *mistake* i. e. to take it wrong; to *mis-use* i. e. to use ill.

Over. Signifies superiority, as to *over-come*, to *over-rule*, &c.

Out. Signifies also superiority or excellency in any thing, to *out-do*, to *out-run*, to *out-go*, &c.

Un. Denotes negation, and signifies *not*, as *un-pleasant*, that is, *not pleasant*; *un-worthy*, that is, *not worthy*, &c.

Up. Always denotes motion upwards, as *up-land*, that is, the land that is high in respect of some other land; *up-side*, that is, the side that is highest.

With. Signifies *against*, as *with-stand*, that is, to stand against; it sometimes signifies as much as *from* or *back*, as *with-hold*, that is, to hold from one; to *with-draw*, that is, to draw from or back, &c.

The following are Latin prepositions used in the composition of the English words, viz. *Ab* or *abs*, *ad* *ante*, *circum*, *con* from *cum*, *contra*, *de*, *dis*, *di*, *e* or *ex*, *enter*, *extra*, *in*, *inter*, *intro*, *ob*, *per*, *post*, *pre*, *pro*, *preter*, *re*, *retro*, *se*, *sub*, *subter*, *super*, *trans*.

Ab, or *abs*. Signifies *from*, and denotes separation or parting; as to *ab-stain*, to *ab-olish*, to *ab-dicate*, &c.

Ad. Signifies *to* or *at*, as *ad-vocate*, *ad-verb*, *ad-vent*, *ad-jacent*, &c.

Ante. Signifies *before*, as *ante-cedent*, that is, the foregoing word; to *ante-date*, that is, to date it before, &c.

Circum. Signifies *about*, as *circum locution*, that is, a round about way of speaking; *circum-vallation*, that is, a ditching about, &c.

Con, from *cum*. Signifies *with* or *together*, as *con-vo-cation*, i. e. a calling or meeting together; *col-loquy*, i. e. a talking with or together.

Contra. Denotes opposition and contrariety, and signifies *against*, as to *contra-dict*, i. e. to gainsay or speak against, or contrary to a person, &c.

De. Signifies a kind of motion from; as *de-file*, that is, a filing off or from; to *de camp*, that is, to move the camp off or from, &c.

Dis.

Dis. Signifies difference, separation, or diversity, and every where gives a signification contrary to the word it is compounded with; as *dis-agree*, that is, *not to agree*; *dis-believe*, that is, *not to believe*; *dis-advantage*, that is, *no advantage*, &c.

Di. Has hardly any other use than the extending or stretching out the sense of the word it is compounded with; as, *to di-rect*, *to di-minish*, &c.

E. or *ex.* signifies *out*, as *e-vent*, that is, *the falling out*; *to e-ject*, that is, *to cast out*; *to ex-clude*, that is, *to shut out*; *to ex-tinguish*, that is, *to put out* &c.

Enter. Comes from the French *entre*, and that from the Latin *inter*, that is, *between*.

Extra. Signifies *beyond*, *over and above*, as *extra-vagant*, that is, *beyond bounds*; *extra-ordinary*, that is, *beyond what is ordinary*, &c.

Inter. Signifies *between*, as, *to inter-vene*, that is, *to come between*; *inter-val*, that is, *the space between*.

Intro. Signifies *within*, as *to in-troduce*, that is, *to lead or bring into* &c.

Ob. Signifies *against*, as *ob-stacle*, that is, *what stands in the way or against* &c.

Per. Signifies *through*, and denotes excellency or excess, as *per-fect*, that is, *thoroughly done*; *per-forate*, that is, *to pierce through*, &c.

Post. Signifies *after*, as *post-script*, that is, *written after*; *a post-humous-work*, that is, *a work published after the author's death*;

Pre. Signifies *before*, as *to pre-meditate*, that is, *to think of or meditate before*, &c.

Pro. Signifies *for* or *forth*; but it has also a great many other senses; as *to profess*, *protest*, *pronounce*, &c.

Preter. Signifies *against*, as *preter-natural*, that is, *against nature*.

Re. Signifies *again*, and generally implies a repeated action; as *to re-peat*, that is, *to say over again*; *to re-lapse*, that is, *to fall ill again*; *to re-turn*, that is, *to come again*, &c.

Retro. Backwards, as *retro-grade motion*, that is, *a going backwards*.

Se. Signifies *without*, as *se-crete*, that is *without care*, &c.

Sub.

Sub. Signifies *under*, as to *sub-scribe*, that is to write under; to *sub-tract*; that is, to draw under, &c.

Subter. Signifies, *under*, as *subter-fluous*, that is, flowing under, &c.

Super. Signifies *upon, over or above*, as *super-scription*, that is, the writing upon a letter; *super-fluous*, that is, over and above what it might be.

Trans. Signifies *over or beyond*, as to *trans-port*, that is, to carry over; to *trans-gress*, that is, to go beyond. And it signifies in a great many words, the moving from one place to another, as to *trans-plant*, to *trans-pose*, *trans-migration*, &c. In other words it denotes the changing of one thing into another, as to *trans-form*, to *trans-figure*, *trans-substantiation*, &c.

There are several Greek prepositions used in the composition of English words, as *A*, *amphi*, *anti*, *hyper*, *hypo*, *meta*, *peri*. *syn*.

A. Signifies *not*, as *anonymous*, that is, without or not having a name; *anarchy*, that is without government.

Amphi. Signifies *on every side*.

Anti. Signifies *against*, as *Anti-Christ*, that is, one who is in opposition to or against Christ; *antagonist*, that is, one who is against you.

Hyper. Signifies *over and above*.

Hypo. Signifies *under*.

Meta. Signifies the same as *trans*, that is, *beyond*; or else denotes the changing one thing into another; as *meta-phor*; *meta-morphosis*, that is transformation.

Peri. Signifies *under*.

Syn. Signifies *with or together*, as *syn-od*, that is, a convocation or meeting together; *syn-tax*, that is, construction, or the right placing of words together in sentences.

N. B. The preposition *con* has often *n* left out, as *co-eternal* for *con-eternal*; and sometimes the *n* is changed into *l*, as *col-loquy*, for *con-loquy*.

Further rules for true spelling, in which observe there are some letters that must be wrote in words, according to the right spelling and yet are not pronounced in speaking.

Rule 1. **I** Here are several letters in words which are not pronounced, and yet must be wrote, because

because most of these words are of foreign derivation :
as,

1. *a* is written, but not pronounced, in *Pharaoh*, *marriage*, *parliament*, 2. *i* is written, but not pronounced, in *evil*, *devil*, *venison*, *Salisbury*. 3. *o* is written but not pronounced, in *Nicholas*, *carrion*, *chariot*. 4. *u* is written, but not pronounced, in *intituled*, *guild*, *guile*, *guide*, *guest*, *disguise*, *guard*, *guardian*, *plague*, *league*, *catalogue*, *decalogue*, *synagogue*, *epilogue*, &c. 5. *b* is written, but not pronounced, in *debtor*, *doubt*, *dumb*, *plumb*, *lamb*, *thumb*, *comb*, *womb*, *tomb*, *bomb*. 6. *c* is written, but not pronounced, in *viſuals*, *indictment*, *perfect*, *ſchiſm*. 7. *d* is written, but not pronounced, in *Wednesday*. 8. *g* is written, but not pronounced, in *deign*, *reign*, *ſeign*, *foreign*, *ſign*, *ſovereign*, *aſſign*, *deſign*, *reſign*, *conſign*, *enſign*, *campaign*, &c. 9. *h* is written, but not pronounced, in *honour*, *hour*, *herb*, *heir*, *honeſt*, *humour*, *hoſt*, *aſthma*, *John*, *Thomas*, *ſcholar*, *ſchool*, *ſcholaſtic*, *ſcheme*, *gherkins*, *ghoſt*, *Rhodes*, *Rhine*, *Rhone*, *rhapsody*, *rheum*, *rheumatic*, *rheumatism*, *exhauſt*, *exhort*, *Rhadamanthus*, *rhetoric*, *rhetorician*, *rhetorical*, *rhetoricate*, *rhetorians*, *rhetorications*, *rhinoceros*, *rhyptic*, *rhyparographer*, *ſepulchre*, *character*, *che miſt*, *che miſtry*, *chemical*, *Chryſoſtom*. *chryſom*, *chronology*, *chronologies*, *chronological*, *chronologiſt*, *chronologer*, *chronogram*, *chronicles*, *chronical*, *chromatics*, *chromatiſm*, *Chriſt*, *Chriſtian*, *Chriſtmas*, *Chriſtianity*, *Chriſtendom*, *Chriſtopher*, *chimera*, *chimerical*, *chirurgeon*, *chaos*, *catarrh*, *catechiſm*, *catechize*, *catechiſt*, and others of Greek origin ; as alſo at the end of all Hebrew words, as *Jeremiah*, *Hezekiah*, *Nehemiah*, &c. 10. *l* is written, but not pronounced, in *Briſtol*, *Lincoln*, *Holborne*. 11. *n* is written, but not pronounced, in the words *autumn*, *column*, *condemn*, *hymn*, *damn*, *contemn*, *ſolemn*, *miln*, *kiln*. 12. *p* is written, but not pronounced, in *psalm*, *receipt*, *ſymptom*, *ſumptuous*. The word *accompt* is read *account*. 13. *f* is written, but not pronounced, in *iſle*, *iſland*, *Liſle*, *Garliſle*, *viſcount*.

Rule 2. All words ſhould be ſpelt according to their original ; as *complete*, *replete*, *extreme*, not *compleat*, &c.

&c. *reflection, connexion, deflection, complexion, inflexion, not reflection, &c.*

Rule 3. All words that end with the sound of the half vowel *l*, though they might seem to be expressed by *l*, yet they are always to be marked with *le* as *damnable, stumble, humble, acceptable, pickle, fickle, idle, bridle, scuffle, truffle, bogle, ogle, inveigle, ample, trample, little, bottle, &c.* not *damnabil, stumbil, &c.* Except from this rule, *evil, devil, until, instil, council, anvil, peril, fulfil.*

Rule 4. All words which end with the hard sound of *g*, have always *u* marked after it: as *Hague, plague, rogue, league, vogue, Prague, colleague, catalogue, decalogue, prologue, fatigue, synagogue, &c.* Except a few monosyllables, as *dig, dog, dug, bag, beg, big, bog, bug, wig, pig, twig, plug, hag, hog, hug, drug, flag, wag, frog, tug, mug*: all which are easily distinguished; as are also these words which end with the ringing sound of *ang, ing, ong, ung*; though *g* at the end of such words is not heard, for we pronounce *accordin, affirmin, for according, affirming, so dancin, playin, singin, fightin, for dancing, &c.* But although *tongue, and harangue*, end with a ringing sound, they have *ue* after *g*.

Rule 5. When the sound of *j* or soft *g* comes at the end of a word, it is always expressed by *ge*, or *edge*. as *page, rage, baggage, knowledge, pledge, wedge, hedge, &c.* though the *d* in *pledge, &c.* is superfluous, and seems to have been put in to shorten the sound.

Rule 6. These words marked with *que* at the end, as *barque, pique, antique, publique, oblique, relique*, is the *French* way of writing, who use *qu* because they have not *k*; but the genius of our language requires them to be marked with *ck* if monosyllables, as *back, pick*, and with *c* only, if more than one syllable, as *antic, republic, public, &c.* *K* is a very useless and superfluous letter after *c*, and should not be wrote at the end of words exceeding one syllable, *c* being always hard when it ends either a syllable or word; as *arith-*
metic,

metic, logic, mathematic, Frederic, physic, scholastic, prophetic, rustic, music, &c.

Rule 7. The letter *l* is always doubled at the end of monosyllables, as *ball, bell, bill, boll, bull, sell, tell, well, &c.* But if a diphthong goes before it, it is not doubled, as *soul, feel, fool, &c.* Nor is it ever doubled in words of more than one syllable, as *faithful, fulfil, plentiful, excel, &c.*

Rule 8. When a word of the single number ends with *y*, it is changed into *ies* in the plural; as *sky, skies; cry, cries; ly, lies; py, pies; heresy, heresies; cherry, cherries; entry, entries; city, cities, &c.* and not *skys, crys, citys*.

Rule 9. When words of the single number end in *f* or *fe*, the *f* or *fe* are changed into *ves* in the plural number; as *calf, calves; half, halves; knife, knives; leaf, leaves; shelf, shelves; self, selves; thief, thieves; wife, wives; wolf, wolves; except boof, roof, grief, dwarf, mischief, handkerchief, relief, are words which end with f, whose plurals are made by adding only s to the singular; as hoof, hoofs; roof, roofs; grief, griefs; muff, muffs; ruff, ruffs; &c.* But *staff*, although it ends with *ff*, makes *staffs* in the plural.

Rule 10. All words which end with the sound of *ance*, *ence, ince, unce*, though they might seem to be wrote with *nse*, yet are always to be wrote with *nce*; as *countenance, abundance, defence, audience, prince, convince, trounce, dunce, &c.* except only *sense, dense, dispense, immense, intense, propense, incense*.

Rule 11. The sound of *se* at the end of words is always marked *cy*; as *advertency, contingency, democracy, telicacy, despondency, excellency, exigency, obstinacy, &c.* Except from this rule *controversy, apostasy, courtesy, thesy, palsy, gipsy, epilepsy, heresy, hypocrisy, jealousy; to prophesy*, though the noun is written *prophecy*.

Rule 12. The sound of *shun*, after the vowels, *a, e, i, o, u*, and the consonants, *c, p, r*, is written *tion*, as *oration, petition, devotion, dissolution, instruction, sub-*

subscription, extortion, &c. But after any other consonant it is marked *sion*, except *contention, invention, attention, diffention, intention, condescension*. But when to write *ti* and *si*, is one of the difficultest tasks to lay down a rule for. Nothing but diligent observation of the above rule and practice can remove it: for most words ending in *tion* and *sion*, are Latin verbals, and are formed of the first supine; which if it ends in *tum*, then we write *ti*, if in *sum*, then *si*.

Observe farther, that the long and short sounds of the vowels are marked with their simple characters, *a, e, i, o, u*, in all the additional beginnings and endings; but that these single vowels never end words with their simple nor naked character, *a, e, i, o, u*. As,

1. *A* never ends an *English* word; for when a word ends with its long sound, it is expressed by *ay*, as *day, may, say, delay, &c.* And if a word ends with its broad sound it is marked with *aw*, as *saw, law, draw, &c.*

2. *E* is never sounded at the end of an *English* word, except in the article *the*, which is written with a single *e*, to distinguish it from the pronoun *thee*; for when its sound comes at the end of a word, it is always expressed by *ea*, as *sea, plea, tea, &c.* or by *ee*, as *free, tree, agree, &c.*

3. *I* ends no *English* word, without *e* after it, as *busie, heresie*, not *busi, heresi, &c.* But all such words are better spelt with *y*, thus *busy, heresy, &c.*

4. *O* never ends an *English* word, except these few, *go, lo, so, to, no, two, who, wo, do, undo, whofo, also*; the sound of *o* at the end of words being generally expressed by *ow*, as *know, follow, below, snow, &c.* except in *foe, toe, doe, roe, floe.*

5. No *English* word ends with *u*, except *thou, you, lieu, and adieu*; the sound of *u* being generally expressed by *ew* or *ue*, as *nephew, few, dew, &c. ague, true, avenue, &c.* *Y* as a vowel ends words for *ie*; as for *heresie, busie, &c.* write *heresy, busy.*

of

Of Diphthongs.

THE diphthongs *ai, ei, oi, ui, au, eu, ou*, observe are never wrote at the ends of words. As,

1. *Ay* is always wrote at the end of words, for *ai*, as *day, pay, delay, &c.*
2. *Ey* is always wrote at the end of words for *ei*, as *whey, grey, they, &c.*
3. *Oy* is always wrote for *oi*, as *boy, toy, Troy, joy, &c.*
4. *Uy* is always wrote for *ui*, as *buy, Guy, &c.*
5. *Aw* is always wrote for *au*, *saw, gnaw, withdraw, &c.*
6. *Ew* for *eu*, as *dew, few, new, knew, &c.*
7. *Ow* for *ou*, as *know, how, slow, blow, &c.*

Now as for the consonants, their sounds may be said to be invariable in all words, except *c* and *g*, which are treated of already. All to be observed is, that when the stress of the pronunciation lies on the consonants *b, c, d, f, g, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, z*, that they are always to be doubled; as *scabbard*, where the stress lies upon the *b*. So likewise *commit*, where the stress of the voice lies upon *m*. But another way to know when these consonants should be doubled, is to observe if the vowel be short before it; and if so, then it must be doubled; as in *scabbard*, where the *a* before *b* is short; and in *commit*, where the *o* is short before *m*: for if I hear the sound of the vowel to be long, there I put in but one consonant. And this is a general rule, that a vowel before two consonants is short.

And now I think, by the above rules, any difficulty in spelling the generality of words that has occurred to me, is removed: for the scholar being truly taught the various sounds of vowels and consonants, both single and double, nothing being a greater help to true spelling, will not fail, by pronunciation of any number of letters to the ear, to give their proper characters in writing.

Of stops or points, and marks or notes.

AS in speech or discourse there are often several motions made by different parts of the body, in order to excite attention, and transmit a more clear and perfect idea to the hearer, of the meaning and intention of the speaker; so writing being the very image of speech, there are several points or marks made use of in it, not only to mark the distance of time in pronouncing, but also to prevent any confusion or obscurity in the sense of the writer, whereby it may the more readily be distinguished and comprehended by the reader.

There are four points or stops considered as intervals in reading, viz. *comma, semicolon, colon, period, or full stop*

The *Comma*, marked thus (,), is the shortest pause, and distinguishes the conjunct members of sentences; as, *O sing unto the Lord, for he is merciful, long-suffering, slow to wrath, abounding in goodness and truth.* It also distinguishes nouns, verbs, and adverbs; as, *The enemy fought with guns, swords, spears, &c. That rogue swears, lies, steals, &c. Sooner or later, he must be hanged.*

A *Semicolon*, marked thus (;), is a pause somewhat longer than a comma. This point ought to be made in the subdivision of the members of a sentence; as, *As the shadow moves, and we do not perceive it; or, as the tree grows, and we do not apprehend it; so man, &c.* It is also used in distinguishing nouns of a contrary signification; as, *things public; things private; things sacred and profane.*

A *Colon*, marked thus (:), is used when the sense is perfect, but the sentence not ended; as, *If the enemy advances, I command you to give battle: if not, march straight to the city.* It is generally used before a comparative conjunction in a similitude; and also if the period runs out pretty long.

A *Period*, marked thus (.), is the greatest pause, and is made when the sentence is completely ended; as *Learning makes life sweet, and produces pleasure, tranquility, glory, and praise.*

An

An *Erotefis*, or point of *Interrogation*, marked thus (?), is made when a question is asked; as, *Does he still continue obstinate? Will he never repent?*

Ecphonesis, or point of *exclamation*, *admiration*, or *wonder*, marked thus (!), is a direction for raising the tone or voice upon some vehement passion being expressed; as, *O that villain! O wretched man!*

The marks and notes to be met with in reading are,

1. An *apostrophe*, marked thus ('), used to abbreviate or shorten a word.

2. A *Caret*, thus (^), placed where some word is left out in writing, and put over it. This is also called a *circumflex*, when placed over some vowel of a word to denote a long syllable; as, *Euphrâtes*.

3. An *Hyphen*, thus (-), used in joining the syllables of words, and compounding words together.

4. An *Accent*, thus (â), being placed over a vowel, notes that the tone or stress of the voice in pronouncing is upon that syllable.

5. *Breve*, (˘), is a crooked mark over a vowel, and denotes that it is sounded quick.

6. *Diaresis*, thus (¨), is two points placed over two vowels that would otherwise make a diphthong, and parts them into two syllables.

7. *Parenthesis*, thus (), serves to illustrate a sentence, and may be left out, and yet the sense remain perfect.

8. A *Paragraph*, thus (¶), placed at the beginning of a new discourse, and denotes what is contained in a sentence or period.

9. A *Quotation*, thus ("), to signify the words so marked are transcribed from the writings of another in his own words.

10. An *Index*, (☞), serves to point out something remarkable.

11. A *Section*, thus (§), is the division of a discourse, or chapter, into lesser parts or portions.

12. An *Asterism*, thus (*), an *Obelisk* (†), and *Parallels* (||), with letters of the alphabet, figures, &c. refer to the margin or bottom of the page.

Of capitals, or great letters.

1. **L**ET proper names of persons, places, seas, rivers, ships, winds, months, &c. be distinguished by beginning with capital letters.

2. It is become customary to begin any substantive in a sentence with a capital, if it bears some considerable stress of the author's sense upon it, to make it the more remarkable.

3. Let the first word of every epistle, book, note, verse, bill, &c. begin with a capital.

4. If any notable saying, or passage of an author, be quoted in his own words, it begins with a capital, though it be not immediately after a full stop.

5. Write not a capital in the middle of a word among small letters, except in anagrams.

6. Sometimes capitals are used in whole words and sentences, when something extraordinary great is expressed; as *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. BABYLON IS FALLEN.*

Of Etymology.

ETymology, as before observed, treats of the kinds of words, also their derivation, change, analogy, or likeness to one another.

Of the eight parts of speech.

EVERY word being considered as a part of our speech or discourse, we reckon up eight sorts of words of different nature, which we call eight parts of speech. Their names are, *noun, pronoun, verb, participle, adverb, conjunction, preposition, interjection.*

Speech is speaking, or discourse. By eight parts of speech,

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nunciat

speech, are meant eight sorts of words which are used in discourse. And though there are thousands of words in the English language, yet there are but eight sorts; for every word we use in speaking, is either a noun, or an adjective, which is a word that signifies the quality or manner of a thing, or pronoun, or a verb, or a participle, or an adverb, or a conjunction, or a preposition, or an interjection.

The parts of speech are the same in English as in Latin; and in all other languages as well as Latin: for that which is a noun in English, is a noun in the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, &c. languages.

Of a Noun.

A Noun is the name of a thing that may be perceived either by the senses or understanding; which conveying some certain idea or image to the mind, they want not the help of any other word to make us understand them; and it is either substantive or adjective. So that whatever can be heard, seen, smelt, tasted, felt, or understood, is a noun. And a noun substantive is the thing itself; as, *a man, a boy, a dog*. And the adjective is a word that expresses the qualities or properties of a thing; as, *rich, poor, wise, foolish, great, small, &c.* For if one says, *I see a rich, I see a poor, I see a wise, I see a foolish*, in these sayings there is no sense, nor do I understand the meaning of them; but it requires that a substantive be added to each adjective to make sense; as *I see a rich man, I see a poor boy, I see a wise dog, I see a foolish woman*.

Of Numbers.

Number is the distinction of one for many. There are two numbers, the singular and the plural. The singular number is used when we speak of one single thing; as, *a boy, a dog, a tree*. The plural number is used when we speak of more things than one; as *boys, dogs, trees*. The plural number is commonly made by adding *s* to the singular; as *boy, boys; dog, dogs; tree, trees*. But when the singular number ends in *ch, sh, ss, or x*, then the pronunciation requires that *es* be added to the singular: as

church, churches; brush, brushes; witness, witnesses; box, boxes. But if the singular number ends in *se, ze, ce,* or in *g,* pronounced soft; then the *s* that is added cannot be heard in the sound except it makes another entire syllable; as *horse* in the singular has but one syllable, *hor-ses* in the plural two; *breeze* one, *bree-zes* two; *face* one, *fa-ces* two; *age* one, *a-ges* two. Words that end in *f* or *se* do, for their better sounding, make their plural by changing *f* and *se* into *ves*, as,

Sing.		Plur.		Sing.		Plur.
<i>Galf</i>	} makes	<i>Calves</i>	}	<i>Self</i>	} makes	<i>Selves</i>
<i>Half</i>		<i>Halves</i>		<i>Thief</i>		<i>Thieves</i>
<i>Knife</i>		<i>Knives</i>		<i>Wife</i>		<i>Wives</i>
<i>Leaf</i>		<i>Leaves</i>		<i>Shelf</i>		<i>Shelves</i>
<i>Loaf</i>		<i>Loaves</i>		<i>Wolf</i>		<i>Wolves</i>
<i>Sheaf</i>		<i>Sheaves</i>				

Though not always; for these words following, with several others, follow the general rule of *s*; as *hoof, hoofs; roof, roofs; grief, griefs; dwarf, dwarfs*; so likewise *mischiefs, handkerchiefs, relief*, make their plural by adding *s*; and also words ending in *ff*, as *muff, ruff, cuff, snuff, stuff, puff*; but *staff*, altho' it ends in *ff*, makes *staves* in the plural. Some words make their plural by adding *en*, as *child, children; brother, brethren. or brothers; man, men; woman, women; ox, oxen; chicken* is not plural, for we say *chickens*, not *chicks*; singular *chicken*. Some words form their plural otherwise than by adding *s, es*, or *en* to the singular, and are therefore irregular; as,

Sing.		Plur.		Sing.		Plur.
<i>Die</i>	} makes	<i>Dice</i>	}	<i>Penny</i>	} makes	<i>Pence</i>
<i>Mouse</i>		<i>Mice</i>		<i>Tooth</i>		<i>Teeth</i>
<i>Louse</i>		<i>Lice</i>		<i>Foot</i>		<i>Feet</i>
<i>Goose</i>		<i>Geese</i>		<i>Sow</i>		<i>Swine</i>

And some words are used alike in both numbers, as *deer, hose, sheep, fern, &c.* And some words have no singular number, as *ashes, bowels, bellows, breeches, entrails, lungs, scissors, snuffers, shanks, tongs, wages.* And many words have no plural number, as the names of men and women, cities, countries, mountains, rivers, &c. The names

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names of virtues, vices, metals, corns, except *bean*, which makes *beans*; and *pea*, *peas*; the names of most herbs; and also the words *ale*, *beer*, *breed*, *butter*, *honey*, *milk*, with many others, want the plural number. Note, that the adjectives have no difference of numbers; for as we say *a good man* in the singular, so we say *good men* in the plural.

Of the Genitive Case.

THE English have but one case, that is the genitive, which ends in the singular and plural in *s* or *es* if the pronounciation requires it; as *Virgil's Æneid*, or *the Æneid of Virgil*; *Milton's poems*, or *the poems of Milton*; *Buchanan's psalms*, or *the psalms of Buchanan*; *man's breath*, or *the breath of man*; *the church's peace*, or *the peace of the church*.

Of Gender.

THE English properly have no genders; and as we have one great advantage above all others, in being freed from the trouble of variety of cases, by the reason that the nouns have no variety of endings; so likewise our having no difference of genders is an advantage full as great as the former: all languages, both antient and modern admitting of difference in gender, in their nouns, except the English and Chinese languages.

By Gender is meant the distinction of sex, or the difference between male and female. We have four ways of distinguishing two genders of the male and female sex. 1. When we would express the difference of sex, we do it (after the same manner as we distinguish the ages and other accidents) by different words.

So in relation of persons.

<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Bachelor,	Maid, Virgin.	Bridegroom,	Bride.
Boar,	Sow.	Brother,	Sister.
Boy,	Girl.	Buck,	Doe.
Bull,	Cow.	Man,	Woman.
Bullock,	Heifer.	Matter,	Dame.
Cock,	Hen.	Milster,	Spawner.

Dog,

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Dog,	Bitch.	Nephew,	Niece.
Drake,	Duck.	Ram,	Ewe.
Drone,	Bee.	Sloven,	Slut.
Father,	Mother.	Son,	Daughter.
Friar	Nun.	Stag,	Hind.
Gander,	Goose	Uncle,	Aunt.
Horse,	Mare.	Widower,	Widow.
Husband,	Wife.	Wizzard,	Witch.
King,	Queen.	Whore-	Whore, or
Lad,	Lafs.	monger,	Strumpet.
Lord,	Lady.		

2. But when there are not two different words to express both sexes, or when both sexes are comprehended under one word, then we add another word to it to distinguish the sex; as, *a male child, a female child, a he-goat* for the male, *a she goat* for the female.

3. We sometimes add another substantive to the word to distinguish the sex; as, *a man-servant, a maid-servant, a cock-sparrow, a hen-sparrow.*

4. There are likewise several words which distinguish the female from the male sex by adding *ess*; as,

Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Abbot,	Abbess.	Jew,	Jewess.
Actor,	Actress.	Lion,	Lioness.
Adulterer,	Adulteress.	Marquis,	Marchioness.
Ambassador,	Ambassadress.	Matter,	Mistress.
Baron,	Baroness.	Patron,	Patroness.
Count,	Countess.	Prince,	Princess.
Deacon,	Deaconess.	Prior,	Priores.
Duke,	Duchess.	Poet,	Poetess.
Electer,	Electress.	Prophet,	Prophetess.
Emperor,	Empress.	Shepherd,	Shepherdess.
Governor,	Governess.	Tutor,	Tutress.
Heir,	Heiress.	Viscount,	Vicountess.
Hunter,	Huntress.		

There are two words in *ix*, *administrator, administratrix*; *executor, executrix*. Note, that the common and ordinary

ordinary words we use to express the difference of sex by, are *he* and *she*. When we speak of the male sex, we use the word *he*; and when we speak of the female sex, we use the word *she*: but when we speak of a thing that is neither of the male nor female sex, without life, we use the word *it*.

Of the Articles.

AN article is a word or syllable set before a substantive, for the more particular expressing of it; as *a book*, that is, *some book* or *other*; *the man*, that is, *some certain man* spoke of before. There are only two articles in the English language, *a* and *the*; and these are really adjectives, and are used almost in the same manner as other adjectives. *A* is wrote before a word beginning with a consonant; but when the substantive begins with a vowel, or *h*; if the *h* be not sounded, then we write *an* instead of *a*; as, *an ass*, *an eye*, *an hour*, *an host*, *an heir*; but *a hare*, *a hand*, &c. because the *h* is sounded. *A* is an article of number, and signifies as much as *one*, and is put for it; as, *a man*, i. e. *one man*; *an hour*, i. e. *one hour*: Or, *an* denotes or signifies the applying a general word to some one particular person or thing in a large sense, not telling what particular person or thing you mean; as *Idleness is a shame*; *Diligence is a praise*: and it is therefore set only before words of the singular number. *The* is a demonstrative article, because it shews what particular person or thing you mean in speaking or writing. *The* is wrote before the singular and plural number; as *the man*, *the men*; *the ass*, *the asses*. Note, that the articles are not wrote before the proper names of men, women, kingdoms, cities, nor the particular names of virtues, vices, metals, coins, herbs, except for distinction's sake: as, *He is a Seymour*, or *He is a Sidney*; i. e. *one whose name is Seymour* or *Sidney*. Proper names of ships, rivers, &c. have frequently the article *the* before them, when some substantive is understood; as, *the Rhine*, *the Clyde*, *the Thames*, *the Terrible*; i. e. *the ship called Terrible*. *He was drowned in the Thames*, *in the Rhine*; i. e. *in the river Thames*, *in the river Rhine*.

of

Of the comparison of Adjectives.

Comparison is the altering the signification of a word into more or less degrees, whereby we see that one thing is *bright*, another *brighter*, and a third is *brightest*. And only adjectives are compared; they being only capable of having their significations increased or diminished. There are three degrees of comparison; the positive, the comparative, and the superlative. The positive degree is the adjective itself simply, without any likeness or comparison, as *soft*, *hard*, *great*. The comparative heightens or lessens the positive in signification. The superlative heightens or lessens the quality to a very high or very low degree. *Note*, The positive, properly speaking, is no degree of comparison; for it doth not compare things together; however it is accounted one, because the other two are founded upon, and formed from it. The comparative degree is formed of the positive by adding the syllable *er*, if it ends with a consonant, or the letter *r* only if the positive ends in *e*; as *soft*, *softer*; *wise*, *wiser*; and it is likewise known by the sign *more* before the positive, as *softer* or *more soft*; *wiser* or *more wise*. The superlative degree is formed of the positive, by adding the syllable *est*, if it ends with a consonant, or the letters *st*, if the positive ends with an *e*; as *brightest*, *wisest*. It is likewise known by the signs *most*, *very*, or *exceeding*.

There are some adjectives which are not compared according to the foregoing rules, and therefore irregular; as,

<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Com.</i>	<i>Super.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Com.</i>	<i>Super.</i>
good	better	best.	little,	{ less or } { lesser, }	least.
bad or } evil, }	worse or } worse, }	worst.	much or }	{ more, }	most.
before,	former,	first.	many,		

Note, That some adverbs are also compared; as, *up*, *upper*, *uppermost*; *above*, *over*, *overmost*; *behind*, *hinder*, *hindermost*; *beneath*, *nether*, *nethermost*; *oft*, *oftner*, *oftenest*, &c. All adjectives cannot be compared, because their signification does not admit of increase; as *all*, *every*, *one*, *any*, *each*, *some*, &c. And it would not be good English to say, *more wiser*, and *most wisest*; for we ought

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to say, *wiser*, or *more wise*; *wisest*, or *most wise*: for *more wiser* would signify as much as *more more wise*; and *most wisest*, as much as *most most wise*.

Fair, *fairer*, *fairest*, are the three degrees of comparison; *fair* is of the positive degree, because it signifies the person to be simply so, without comparing him to any other person: for if I say, *Anne is fair*, that does not gain-say but that Sarah may be as fair: *Fairer* or *more fair*, are of the comparative degree; because when I make a comparison between Anne and Sarah, I find that Anne is fair, but that Sarah is fairer or more fair; that is, *exceeding Anne in beauty*: *Fairest* or *most fair*, are of the superlative; because when I make a comparison between Anne, Sarah, and Mary, I perceive that Anne is fair, but that Sarah is fairer or more fair, and that Mary is fairest or most fair of either Anne or Sarah; that is, *Mary exceeds them both in the highest degree of beauty*.

Of the derivation of the parts of speech.

ALL words whatsoever are either primitive or derivative, simple or compound. A primitive or simple word is such as is not formed of any other; as *man*, *good*, *hope*, *kind*, &c. A derivative word is a primitive or simple word, with the addition of a syllable or syllables, to the same; such as,

<i>able</i> ; agree, agree-able.	<i>ed</i> ; love, lov-ed.
<i>al</i> ; herb, herb-al.	<i>en</i> ; hard, hard-en.
<i>ance</i> ; perform, perform-ance	<i>er</i> ; give, gi-er.
<i>ary</i> ; tribute, tribut-ary.	<i>ess</i> ; count, count-ess.
<i>ate</i> ; fortune, fortu-nate.	<i>est</i> ; read, read-est.
<i>eth</i> ; hear, hear-eth.	<i>less</i> ; blame, blame-less.
<i>ing</i> ; spend, spend-ing	<i>ly</i> ; bold, bold-ly.
<i>ish</i> ; fool, fool-ish.	<i>ness</i> ; cold, cold-ness.
<i>ism</i> ; atheist, athe-ism.	<i>ous</i> ; same, sam-ous.
<i>ist</i> ; art, art-ist.	<i>ty</i> ; craft, craf-ty.
<i>ize</i> ; civil, civil-ize.	

A compound word is formed of two or more simple words; as *silver-smith*, *wheel-wright*, &c. or of a simple word, and a preposition set before it; as, *dis-please*, *con-form*, *un-fit*, *ad-apt*, &c.

Note

Note 1. From any substantive, or adjective, put for a substantive, (in the singular number), is formed the genitive case by adding *s*.

Note 2. Substantives, and sometimes adjectives, and also the other parts of speech, become verbs; the vowel being always sounded long, and the consonant softened; as from *house* comes *to house*; from *grass*, *to graze*; from *brass*, *to braze*; from *breath*, *to breathe*, &c. Verbs are derived from adjectives by adding *en*, as from *rid* comes *ridden*; from *white*, *whiten*; from *fast*, *fasten*; from *black*, *blacken*, &c.

Note 3. That from verbs are derived the active participle, that ends always in *ing*, and the passive, that ends in *ed* or *en*; as *loving*, *loved*; *giving*, *given*; from which verbs, by adding *er* to the present tense, comes a substantive signifying the agent; as from *love*, comes *lover*; from *hear* comes the noun *hearer*; from *play* comes *player*, &c. and these sort of nouns are called verbal nouns.

Note 4. By adding *y* to substantives, are formed adjectives of plenty; as from *wealth* comes the adjective *wealthy*; from *filth* comes *filthy*; from *louse* comes *lousy*, &c. By adding the termination *ful* to substantives, are also formed adjectives denoting fulness; as from *joy* comes *joyful*; *fruit*, *fruitful*; *health*, *healthful*, &c. So also by adding *some* to substantives, are formed adjectives signifying fulness; as *burden*, *burdensome*; *whole*, *wholesome*, &c. So from substantives come also adjectives denoting likeness, by adding the ending *ly*; as from *earth* comes *earthly*; *man*, *manly*; *heaven*, *heavenly*, &c.

Note 5. By adding the termination *less* to substantives are formed adjectives signifying want; as *care*, *careless*; *wit*, *witless*; *worth*, *worthless*, &c. Some adjectives, which signify the matter out of which any thing is made, are formed by adding *en* to the substantives; as *earth*, *earthen*; *brass*, *brazen*; *gold*, *golden*; *ash*, *ashen*; *oak*, *eaken*, &c.



T H E
I N T R O D U C T I O N.
C O N T A I N I N G

Some general DIRECTIONS for writing LET-
TERS, and how to address persons of dis-
tinction in writing or discourse, &c.

EPISTOLARY writing, by which a great part of the commerce of human life is carried on, was esteemed by the Romans a liberal and polite accomplishment; and Cicero, the father of eloquence and master of style, speaks with great pleasure, in his epistles to Atticus, of his son's genius in this particular. Among them, it was undoubtedly a part of their education; and, in the opinion of Mr. Locke, it well deserves a share in ours. "The writing letters" (says this great genius) "enters so much into all the occasions of life, that no gentleman can avoid shewing himself in compositions of this kind. Occurrences will daily force him to make this use of his pen; which lays open his breeding, his sense, and his abilities, to a severer examination than any oral discourse."

"It was a *quaint* difference," says Mr. Howel, in one of his epistles, "that the ancients made betwixt a *letter* and an *oration*; the one should be attired like a woman, and the other like a man. The oration is allowed large *fide-robes*, as *long periods, parenthesis, similies, examples*, and other
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“ parts of rhetorical flourishes ; but a *letter* should
 “ be short-coated, and closely couched. In short,
 “ we should write as we speak ; and that’s a true
 “ familiar letter which expresth our meaning the
 “ same as if we were discoursing with the party to
 “ whom we write, in succinct and easy terms. The
 “ tongue and pen are both interpreters of the mind;
 “ but the pen the most faithful of the two ; and as
 “ it has all the advantage of premeditation, it is
 “ not so apt to err, and leave things behind on a
 “ more authentic as well as lasting record.”

When you sit down to write a letter, remember that this sort of writing should be like conversation. Observe this, and you will be no more at a loss to write, than you will be to speak to the person were he present ; and this is nature without affectation, which, generally speaking, always pleases. As to subjects, you are allowed in writing letters the utmost liberty ; whatsoever has been done, or seen, or heard, or thought of, your own observations on what you know, your inquiries about what you do not know, the *time*, the *place*, the *weather*, every thing about you stands ready for a subject ; and the more variety you intermix, if not rudely thrown together, the better. Set discourses require a dignity or formality of style, suitable to the subject ; whereas letter writing rejects all pomp of words, and is most agreeable when most familiar. But, though lofty phrases are here improper, the style should not be low and mean ; and to avoid it, let an easy complaisance, an open sincerity, and unaffected good nature appear in all you say : for a fine letter does not consist in saying fine things, but in expressing ordinary ones with elegance and propriety ; so as to please while it informs, and charm even in giving advice.

It should also wear an honest chearful countenance, like one who truly esteems, and is glad to

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see his friend ; and not like a fop, admiring his own dress, and seemingly pleased with nothing but himself.

Express your meaning as freely as possible. Long periods may please the ear, but they perplex the understanding ; a short style and plain, strikes the mind, and fixes an impression ; a tedious one is seldom clearly understood, and never long remembered. But there is still something requisite beyond all this, towards the writing a polite and agreeable letter, and that is, an air of good breeding, and humanity, which ought constantly to appear in every expression, and that will give a beauty to the whole. By this I would not be supposed to mean, overstrained or affected compliments, or any thing that way tending ; but an easy, genteel, and obliging manner of address, in a choice of words that bear the most civil meanings, with a thorough generous and good-natured disposition.

But in familiar letters of the common concerns of life, elegance is not required, nor is it the thing we ought to aim at ; for when attempted, the labour is often seen, and the end perverted by the very means. Ease and clearness are the only beauties we need to study.

Never be in pain about familiarity in the style to those with whom you are acquainted ; for that very pain will make it awkward and stiff, in spite of all your endeavours to the contrary.

Write freely, but not hastily ; let your words drop from your pen, as they would from your tongue when speaking deliberately on a subject of which you are master, and to a person with whom you are intimate.

Accustom yourself to think justly, and you will not be at a loss to write clearly ; for while there is confusion at the fountain-head, the brook will never be clear.

Before you *begin* to write, think what you are *going* to write. However unnecessary this caution may seem, I will venture to say, that ten appear ridiculous on paper through hurry and want of thought, for one that is so through want of understanding.

A man that begins a speech before he is determined what to say, will undoubtedly find himself bewildered before he gets to the end; not in sentiment only, but in grammar. To avoid this, before you begin a sentence, have the whole of it in your head, and make use of the first words that offer themselves to express your meaning; for be assured, they are the most natural, and will, generally speaking, (I can't say always) best answer your purpose; for to stand searching after expressions, breaks in upon the natural diction; and for a word that perhaps is not a jot more expressive, you make the whole sentence stiff and awkward. But of all things learn to be correct, and never omit a careful perusal of what you have written, which whoever neglects, must have many inaccuracies; and these are not only a reflection on the writer, but a rudeness to the person to whom they are written. Never be ashamed of having found something amiss, which you confess that you did, by mending it; for in that confession you cancel the fault, and if you have not time to transcribe it, let it pass; for a blot is by no means so bad as a blunder; and by accustoming yourself to correct what is amiss, you will be less liable to future mistakes.

So much for letters in general; as for those in trade in particular, I shall quote a reputable author on the subject, who, I think, has said every thing that need be said upon it, and given examples, whereby we can't err, if we don't excel, viz.

“ As plainness, and a free way of expression, is
“ the beauty and excellence of speech, so an easy
“ concise

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“ concise way of writing is the best style for
 “ tradesmen. He that effects a rumbling bombast
 “ style, and fills his letters with compliments and
 “ flourishes, makes a very ridiculous figure in
 “ trade; for instance of the following letter,
 “ which a young tradesman in the country, writes
 “ up to a wholesale dealer, in London, on his
 “ first setting up.”

*SIR, The destinies having so appointed it, and my
 dark stars concurring, that I, who by nature was formed
 for better things, should be put out to a trade; and the
 time of my servitude being at length expired, I am
 now launched forth into the great ocean of business. I
 thought fit to acquaint you, that last month I received
 my fortune, which, by my father's will, had been due
 two years past, at which time I arrived to man's estate,
 and became major; whereupon I have taken a house in
 one of the principal streets of this town, where I am
 entered upon my business, and hereby let you know that
 I shall have occasion for the goods hereafter mention-
 ed, which you may send to me by the carrier.*

This fine flourish, which the young shopkeeper
 dressed up with much application, and thought it
 well done, put his correspondent in London into
 a fit of laughing; who, instead of sending him
 directly the goods he wrote for, sent down into
 the country to enquire his character.

The same tradesman in London, by the next
 post, received the following letter from another
 young shopkeeper in the country, on his beginning
 business for himself.

*SIR, Being obliged, by my late master's decease,
 to enter immediately upon business, and consequently
 open my shop without going to town to furnish myself
 with such goods as at present I want, I have sent you
 a small order, as under-written. I hope you will use*

me well, and let the goods be good of the sorts, tho' I cannot be in London to look them out myself. I have inclosed a bill of exchange of 75 l. on Mess. A— and B—, and Company, payable to you or to your order, at one and twenty days sight. Be pleased to get it accepted; and if the goods amount to more than that sum, I shall, when I have your bill of parcels, send you the remainder. I repeat my desire, that you will send me the goods well sorted, and well chosen, and as cheap as possible, that I may be encouraged to a farther correspondence. I am your humble servant, C. K.

This was writing like a man that understood what he was doing, and such a letter could not want its proper effect upon such a correspondent in London.

In short, a tradesman's letter should be plain and concise, and to the purpose; no quaint expressions, no book-phrases, no flourishes; and yet they must be full and sufficient to express what he means, so as not to be doubtful, much less unintelligible. I can by no means approve of studied abbreviations, and leaving out the needful copulatives of speech in trading letters; they are affected to the last degree: For, in a word, 'tis affecting to be thought a man of more than ordinary sense, by writing extraordinary nonsense; affecting to be a man of business, by giving orders, and expressing your meaning in terms which a man of business may not think himself bound by.

When a tradesman takes an apprentice, the first thing he does for him, after he lets him into the counting house and his books, and after trusting him with his more private business, is, to let him write letters to his dealers, and correspond with his friends; and this he does in his master's name, subscribing his letter thus:

I am,
For my master, A. B. and company,

Your humble servant,

C. D.
And

And beginning thus :

S I R, I am ordered by my Master, A. B. to advise you, that——

Or thus :

S I R, These are, by my master's order, to give you notice——

Orders for goods ought to be very explicit and particular, that the dealer may not mistake ; especially if it be orders from a tradesman to a manufacturer, to make or buy goods, either of such a quality or pattern ; in which case, if the goods are made to the colours, and of a marketable goodness, and within the time limited, the person ordering them cannot refuse to receive them, and to make himself debtor to the maker. On the contrary, if the goods are not of a marketable goodness, or not to the patterns, or not sent within the time, the maker ought not to expect they should be received.

In regard to the form and superscription of letters, especially of the politer sort, it may be necessary to observe.

That when you write to a person of distinction, or gentleman, let it be on gilt paper ; and without sealing the letter itself, inclose it in a cover, which you are to seal over it, and write the superscription thereon.

Begin your letter about two inches below the top of your paper, and leave about an inch margin on the left hand, and what compliments, or services, you send in the letter, insert them rather in the body or conclusion of it than by way of postscript, as is too often done ; but is neither so affectionate or polite ; for it not only favours of levity to your friends, but has the appearance of your having almost forgot them.

It is usual among the polite, to sign their names at a considerable distance below the conclusion of the

the letter, and thereby leave a large vacant space over their names; which, tho' customary, I would by all means advise you to avoid; because 'tis putting it in the power of any one who has your letter, to write what he pleases over your name, and to make you in all appearance have signed a writing that you would by no means have set your hand to.

In directing your letters to persons who are well known; 'tis best not to be too particular; because 'tis lessening the person you direct to, by supposing him to be obscure, and not easily found.

Whenever you direct to persons who are honourable, either by family or office, 'tis more proper as well as polite, to direct without the title of Esq; than with it; for instance,

To the Honourable Mr. Arundel; not to the Honourable Peter Arundel, Esq; which would be ridiculous.



SOME FARTHER

DIRECTIONS and OBSERVATIONS

ON EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE.

1. **W**Hen you are writing to your superior, be not prolix, but let your letter be as short as the subject, or occasion you write on, will permit; especially such, wherein favours are requested: and be particularly careful in not omitting any letter belonging to the words you write, as *I've, can't, don't, shou'd, wou'd, &c.* instead of *I have, cannot, do not, should, would, &c.* for such contractions not only appear disrespectful, and too familiar; but discover (those almost inseparable companions) ignorance and impudence. Neither be over pompous in your style, but convey your thoughts with ease and perspicuity, that they

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may appear as from nature, rather than a vain conceit to shew your learning; the *former* shews your *humility*, the *latter* your *pride*.

2. When you write to your superiors, never make a postscript: and (if possible) avoid it in letters to your equals; especially complimentary postscripts to any of the person's family or relations, to whom you write; as it shews disrespect in your neglecting such persons in the body of your letter: wherefore it is best to keep up to form, if you write to the ancient, the grave, or the proud; such persons being most commonly jealous of disrespect, and expect to be treated with deference.

3. When you write to your inferiors, you are at liberty to act as you think proper as to the last caution; and take care that you are not too familiar, or free in your style, lest it should make you contemptible; always having the proverb in your mind, *viz. Too much familiarity commonly breeds contempt.*

4. If your letter consists of several paragraphs, begin every fresh, or new one, at the same distance from the left hand margin of the paper, as when you began the subject of your letter; always remembering, as you write on, to make your proper stops; otherwise no person will be able to come at the *sense* or meaning of your letter; which neglect very often causes *mistakes* and *misunderstandings*: and be careful to put a period or full stop at the end of every paragraph, thus.

5. When the subject of your letter is finished, conclude it with the same address as at first, as *Sir*; *Madam*; or *May it please your Grace*; *Lordship*; *Ladyship*, &c. &c. and always subscribe your name in a larger hand than the body-part of your letter.

6. Letters should be wrote on *Quarto* fine gilt post paper to superiors; if to your equals or inferiors, you are at your own option to use what
fort

fort or size you please : but take care never to seal your letter with a wafer, unless to the *latter*.

7. When your letter is sealed, you must write the superscription (if it be to your superior, or equal) in the following manner, *viz.* Write the word *To* by itself, as nigh the left-hand upper angle, or corner of your letter, as is convenient : then begin the title, or name of the person, about an inch lower, and almost in the middle or centre of it, according to the length of the person's name or title ; and write the place of his abode in a line by itself at the bottom, in a larger character than the other part, thus :

<p style="text-align: center;">To The Right Hon. the Earl of PEMBROKE, At WILTON-HOUSE, WILTS.</p>
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Proper DIRECTIONS for addressing persons of every rank or denomination, at the beginnings of letters, and the superscriptions.

Beginnings of letters.

To the KING. *Sire* ; or, *Sir* ; or, *Most gracious Sovereign* ; or, *May it please your MAJESTY*.

To the QUEEN. *Madam* ; or, *Most*, &c.

To the PRINCE OF WALES. *Sir* ; or, *May it please your Royal Highness*.

To the PRINCESS OF WALES. *Madam* ; or, *May it please your Royal Highness*.

To the PRINCESS DOWAGER. Ditto.

Note. All *sovereigns* sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters, are entitled to *Royal Highness*.

And

And to the rest of the royal family. *Highness.*

To a DUKE. *May it please your GRACE.*

To a DUCHESS. *Dirto.*

To a MARQUIS, EARL, } *My Lord ; or, May it*
 VISCOUNT, LORD, } *please your Lordship.*

To a Marchioness ; an Earl's } *May it please your*
 Wife, Viscountess, or a } *Ladyship.*
 Lord's wife.

To the Archbishops. *May it please your Grace ;*
 or, *My Lord.*

To the rest of the Bishops. *My Lord ; or, May it*
please your Lordship.

To the rest of the Clergy. *Reverend Sir.*

Note. All younger sons of a *Marquis, Earl, Vis-*
count, and *Lords sons,* are styled *Honourable,* and
 are *Esquires.*

To either of these. *Sir ; Honoured Sir ; or, May*
it please your Honour.

Also the title of *Lady* is given to the daughters of
Dukes, Marquesses, and Earls, Madam ; or, May
it please your Ladyship.

To a member of parliament. *May it please your*
Honour.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Lon-
 don. *My Lord ; or, May it please your Lordship.*

Note. That *Generals, Admirals, and Colonels,* and
 all *Field Officers,* are *Honourable.*

All other officers, either in the *army* or *navy,* have
 only the title of the commission they bear, set
 first on the superscription of the letters ; and
 at the beginning, *Sir ; or, Honoured Sir ; or,*
May it please your honour.

An *Ambassador,* *May it please your Excellency ; or, Sir.*

All *Privy Counsellors,* and *Judges* that are *Privy*
Counsellors are *Right Honourable ;* and the
 whole *Privy Council* taken together, are styled
Most Honourable.

Baronets are *Honourable.*

Justices

Justices of the Peace, and Mayors, are styled Right Worshipful.

Likewise *Sheriffs of counties, &c.*

All Governors under his majesty are styled, *Excellency.*

Supercriptions of letters.

To his Most Sacred MAJESTY; or, To the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

To her Most Sacred MAJESTY; or, QUEEN's Most Excellent MAJESTY.

To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

To her Royal Highness the Princess, &c.

To her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales.
Sovereigns sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters.

To his, or her Royal Highness.

To the rest of the royal family. Highness.

To his Grace the Duke of K—n.

To her Grace the Duchess of N—k.

<p><i>To a Marquis, Earl, Viscount, Lord,</i></p>	<p><i>To the Right Honourable the Marquis of; Earl of; Lord Viscount F—b; the Lord H—w.</i></p>
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To a Marchioness. To the Right Honourable the Marchioness of; &c. An Earl or Viscount's wife. To the Right Honourable the Countess of; the Viscountess of, &c. To a Lord's wife. To the Right Honourable the Lady, &c.

To the daughter of a Duke, Marquis, and Earl. To the Right Honourable the Lady Anne Finch.

Note. The wives of Lieutenant-generals, Major-generals, and Brigadeer-generals, are *Honourable.*

Also, the wives of *Vice and Rear Admirals, Ambassadors, &c. To the Right Honourable Mrs —.*

To an Archbishop. To his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

To other Bishops. To the Right Reverend Father in God John Lord Bishop of, &c.

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Some necessary Orthographical directions for writing correctly, and when to use capital letters, and when not.

1. **L**ET the first word of every book, epistle, note, bill, verse, (whether it be in prose, rhyme, or blank verse,) begin with a capital.
2. Let proper names of persons, places, ships, rivers, mountains, things personified, &c. begin with a capital; also all appellative names of professions, callings, &c.
3. It was formerly understood ornamental to begin every substantive in a sentence with a capital, if it bore some considerable stress of the author's sense upon it, to make it the more remarkable and conspicuous: but now the common practice is, to begin all common substantives with a little letter; which adds to the beauty of writing and printing.
4. None but substantives, whether common, proper, or personal, may begin with a capital, except in the beginning, or immediately after a full stop.
5. Qualities, affirmation, or participles, must not begin with a capital, unless such words begin, or come immediately after a period; then they never fail to begin with a capital.
6. If any notable saying or passage of an author be quoted in his own words, it begins with a capital, though not immediately after a period.
7. Let not a capital be written in the middle of a word among small letters.
8. Where capitals are used in whole words and sentences, something is expressed extraordinary great. They are also used in titles of books for ornament's sake.
9. The pronoun *I*, and the exclamative *O*, must be written with a capital.
10. The letter *q* is never used without the letter *u* next following.
11. The long *f* must never be inserted immediately after the short *s*, nor at the end of a word.



THE COMPLETE
LETTER-WRITER.



P A R T I.

Miscellaneous LETTERS on the
most useful and common occasions.



LETTER I.

*From a brother at home, to a sister abroad on a visit,
complaining of her not writing.*

Dear Sister,

I Must acquaint you how unkind it is taken by every body here, that we so seldom hear from you ; my mother, in particular, is not a little displeased, and says, you are a very idle girl ; my aunt is of the same opinion ; and none but myself endeavours to find excuses for you ; but I beg you will give me that trouble no more, and, for the future, take care to deserve no rebuke, which you may easily do by writing soon and often. You are very sensible how dear you are to us all : think then with yourself, whether it be right to omit giving us the only satisfaction that absence affords to real friends, which is often to hear from one another.

Our best respects to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert, and compliments to all friends.

From your very affectionate brother,

T. C.
L E T.

L E T T E R II.

The sister's answer.

Dear Brother,

I Will not set about finding excuses, but own my fault, and thank you for your kind reproof; and, in return, I promise you never to be guilty of the like again. I write this immediately on the receipt of yours, to beg my mamma's pardon, which you, I know, can procure; as also my aunt's, on this my promise of amendment. I hope you will continue to excuse all my little omissions; and be assured, I am never so forgetful of myself, as to neglect my duty designedly. I shall certainly write to mamma by next post: this is just going, which obliges me to conclude, with my duty to dear mamma, and sincere respects to all friends.

Your ever affectionate sister,

M. C.



L E T T E R III.

A young gentleman's letter to his pappu, written by a school-fellow.

Dear Pappu,

According to your commands, when you left me at school, I hereby obey them; and, not only inform you, that I am well: but also that I am happy in being placed under the tuition of so good a master, who is the best natured man in the world; and, I am sure, was I inclinable to be an idle boy, his goodness to me would prompt me to be diligent at my study, that I might please him: besides, I see a great difference made between those that are idle and those that are diligent; idle boys being punished

as they deserve, and diligent boys being encouraged : but you know, pappa, that I always loved my book ; for you have often told me, if I intended ever to be a great man, I must learn to be a good scholar, lest, when I am grown up, I should be a laughing-stock or make-game to others, for my ignorance : but I am resolved to be a scholar.

Pray give my duty to my mamma, and my love to my sister.

I am, dear pappa,

Your most dutiful son.

LETTER IV.

Another on the same subject.

Dear Pappa,

AS I know you will be glad to hear from your little boy, I should be very naughty if I did not acquaint you that I am in good health, and that I am very well pleased with my master ; for he is very kind to me, and tells me, that he will always love young gentlemen that mind their learning : therefore, I am sure, he will still love me ; because you have told me, that boys who do not mind their learning, will never become gentlemen, and will be laughed at for their ignorance, though they have ever so much money : and as I am sure you always speak truth, and I would willingly be a gentleman, like you, I am resolved to be a good scholar, which, I know, will be a pleasure to you and my mamma, and gain me the love of every body.

Pray give my duty to my mamma, my uncle, and my aunt, and my love to my sister and cousins

I am, dear pappa,

Your most dutiful son.

LET-

L E T T E R V.

To a friend, against waste of time.

Dear S I R,

Converse often with yourself, and neither lavish your time, nor suffer others to rob you of it. Many of our hours are stolen from us, and others pass insensibly away : but of both these losses, the most shameful is that which happens thro' our own neglect. If we take the trouble to observe, we shall find that one considerable part of our life is spent in doing evil, and the other in doing nothing, or in doing what we should not do. We don't seem to know the value of time, nor how precious a day is ; nor do we consider, that every moment brings us nearer to our end. Reflect upon this, I entreat you, and keep a strict account of time. Procrastination is the most dangerous thing in life. Nothing is properly ours but the instant we breathe in, and all the rest is nothing ; it is the only good we possess : but then it is fleeting, and the first comer robs us of it. Men are so weak, that they think they oblige by giving of trifles, and yet reckon that time as nothing, for which the most grateful person in the world can never make amends. I am, &c.



L E T T E R VI.

In answer to friend.

S I R,

TO tell you, in answer to yours, what I think of prosperity, is, that I take it to be more dangerous to our virtue than adversity. It is apt to make us vain and insolent ; regardless of others, and forgetful of God, ambitious in our pursuits, and intemperate in our enjoyments. Thus it it proved to the

wisest man on earth, I mean Solomon. But I much admire what you say of silence, and wish I could practice that passive virtue, which is the first step of wisdom, the nurse of peace, and the guardian of virtue. Words do but ruffle and discompose the mind, betraying the soul to a thousand vanities. I hope you will, in our next meeting, find me greatly improved in what you so much recommended to me.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.

LETTER VII.

To a young gentleman.

S I R,

I Dare venture to affirm, that learning, properly cultivated and applied, is what truly makes the gentleman, and that a wise man is as much superior to an ignorant person, as a man is above the level of a brute. Wherefore you cannot do better than to apply yourself seriously to the cultivation of your mind; to which purpose nothing will contribute more, than your prescribing yourself a regular method of study. The morning is undoubtedly more proper for reading than any other part of the day; because the mind is then free and disengaged, and unclouded by those vapours which we generally find after a full meal. Nevertheless I would not expect to read over a multitude of volumes, nor read with greediness; I would rather chuse to read a little, and digest it. Neither would I regard the number, so much as the choice of my books, &c.

LETTER VIII.

From a young lady, in answer to a letter she had received from her mamma, advising her to persevere in the Christian duties she had been instructed in.

Most honoured Madam,

I Am at a loss for words to express the joy I felt at the receipt of your letter; wherein you are pleased

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fed to acquaint me, that nothing ever gave my dear mamma greater pleasure and satisfaction, than the account I have given her of the conduct I observe in my spiritual affairs; and that I may still add to that comfort (which shall ever be my study), when an opportunity offers itself, I presume to continue the information.

When I have properly discharged my duty to that Divine Being, to whom I am indebted for my existence, I repair to my toilet; but not with an intent to clothe my body (which I know must sooner or later fall into corruption) with vain attire, but with such as is decent or innocent; regarding fine robes as the badges of pride and vanity; keeping those enemies, to our sex in particular, at too great a distance, ever to dare an attempt upon my mind.

When public prayers and breakfast are over, I apply my thoughts to the duty of the school; and divide the time appointed for them as equally as possibly I can, between the several branches of education I am engaged in, both before and after dinner.

When school is finished for the day, I, accompanied by a young lady, who is my bedfellow, and of a like disposition, retire to our room, where we improve ourselves by reading. Books of piety are our most common choice. These warm our wills, and enlighten our understandings: they instruct us in the cause of our misconduct, and prescribe to us a remedy: they neither flatter a dignified title, nor insult the peasant who tills the ground; but, like painted bustos, look upon every one alike. In fine, they refresh the memory, enlarge the understanding, and enflame the will; and, in a delightful manner, cultivate both virtue and wisdom.

Having finished our reading, either of piety, or history, which we prefer next, (especially such as relates to our own country), and supper and prayers are over, I retire alone to my room, to take an impartial view of the actions of the day. If my con-
science

science does not accuse me of having committed any thing criminal, I give glory to God; and with bended knees, and an humble heart, return him unfeigned thanks for protecting me against those temptations which the enemy to mankind is ready to allure us with: for, I am persuaded, it was not my strength of virtue that withstood the temptations, but his assisting grace that enabled me to overcome them; and if I am conscious of having done amiss, I sue for pardon; and lay not my body to rest, till I have procured peace to my soul.

If at any time I am permitted to pay a visit, (which liberty your indulgence has allowed), I take care to time it properly; for there are certain times when visits become rather troublesome than friendly: Wherefore I avoid it when much company is expected; or when I am certain that family-affairs will not admit of sufficient leisure to receive them; the former on my own account, the latter on my friends: That is, much company assembled together, serves rather to confuse our ideas, then enliven them. Wherefore, when I am, so unfortunate to ill-time a visit, I withdraw as soon as civility and ceremony will permit me; for, in my weak opinion, Madam, long conversations grow dull, as few of our sex are furnished with a sufficient fund of materials for long discourses, unless it be to comment upon the frailties of the absent, and turn their misfortunes into a subject for our most cruel diversion.

This, Madam, is a vice you have often cautioned me against, and I shall be particularly careful to avoid it; being both an unchristian and disingenuous principle, to feast ourselves at another's expence.

This is all I have to offer at present; and am, with great humility,

Most honoured Madam,

Your most dutiful daughter.

L E T.

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L E T T E R IX.

From a young lady to her mamma, requesting a favour.

Dear Mamma,

THE many instances you have given me of your affection, leave me no room to believe that the favour I presume to ask will be displeasing. Was I in the least doubtful of it, I hope my dear mamma has too good an opinion of my conduct, to imagine I would ever advance any thing that might give her the least dissatisfaction.

The holidays are nigh at hand, when all of us young ladies, are to pay our several personal respects and duties to our parents, except one; whose friends (her parents being dead), reside at too great a distance for her to expect their indulgence in sending for her: besides, were they to do so, the expence attending her journey would be placed to her account, and deducted out of the small fortune left her by her parents.

This young lady's affability, sense, and good nature, have gained her the friendship and esteem of the whole school; each of us contending to render her retirement (as I may justly call it) from her native home and friends, as comfortable and agreeable as we possibly can.

How happy should I think myself above the rest of our young ladies, if you will give me leave to engage her to spend the holidays with me at home! And I doubt not but her address and behaviour will attract your esteem, among the rest of those she has already acquired.

Your compliance with this request, will greatly add to the happiness I already enjoy from the repeated indulgencies and favours conferred on her, who will always persevere to merit the continuance of them. I am, with my duty to pappa,

Dear mamma,

Your most dutiful daughter.

L E T T E R X.

From a young gentleman to his pappa, desiring that he may learn to dance.

Dear Pappa,

YOur affectionate and paternal behaviour convinces me, that you are absolutely resolved to spare no cost in any branch of education that is essentially necessary in the employment you propose I shall hereafter follow : And though I am certain you intend that dancing shall have its share in my studies; nevertheless, permit me to put you in mind of it, and also to desire you will no longer, on account of the strength of my limbs, (which I am sensible is the motive that retards me from beginning), delay your orders to my master; for I am persuaded, from an instance I am witness of in our school, of a young master, who is much weaker in his limbs than ever I was, that dancing will rather strengthen than weaken my joints.

It is not my emulation for dancing a minuet, that is the motive that induces me to be thus pressing; for, I presume, there are other things more necessary belonging to this qualification than that; such as to walk well; to make a bow; how to come properly into to a room, and to go out of it; how to salute a friend or acquaintance in the street, whether a superior, equal, or inferior; and several other points of behaviour, which are more essential than dancing a minuet.

These points of behaviour I often blush to be ignorant of; and have several times been the ridicule of those young chaps, who are advanced in the knowledge of this accomplishment: And as I am persuaded you would not chuse I should be a make-game to any of my school-fellows, I doubt not but you will send your immediate orders for my beginning; which favour, added to the many others you have already conferred, will greatly oblige,

Dear pappa,

Your most dutiful son.

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L E T T E R X I.

From a young lady to her pappa, who lately embarked for the East Indies, in the company's service, but was detained at Portsmouth by contrary winds.

Dear Pappa,

I Flatter myself you are too well convinced of my steady adherence to my duty and affection, ever to imagine I will omit the least opportunity that offers, to pay you my most humble duty.

I beg my dear pappa may not be offended if I say, that it gives me a secret satisfaction to hear you are still within the reach of a post-letter: And though I cannot have the pleasure of a paternal embrace, yet I rejoice in the expectation of receiving the wished-for account of your health's continuance; which to me, my dear mamma, and brother, is the greatest blessing that providence can possibly bestow upon us.

Oh! Sir, though short to some, the interval of time since I received your blessing, ere your departure from us, to me it seems an age! And when I reflect how many such I am doomed to bear in the absence of the best of parents, I am inconsolable! And if it were possible that nature could subsist on sleep alone, I could with pleasure renounce every amusement whatever, and make the silent pillow my retreat.

Oh! may the divine Being be your protector against the many dangers of that boisterous element you are obliged to traverse! May he direct such gentle and favourable breezes that may conduct you to your destined port! May he add to this a happy and successful voyage! and, to crown all my wishes, grant you a speedy and safe return.

I have nothing worthy notice to advise you of, but that we are all (God be praised) in the same good health you left us, and are in great expectation of the same comfortable account in your answer to this, from

Dear pappa,
Your most dutiful daughter.

L E T T E R XII.

From a young woman just gone to service, to her mother at home.

Dear mother,

TIS a fortnight, this very day, that I have been at Mr. Johnson's; and I thank God, I begin to find myself a little easier than I have been: But, indeed, I have suffered a great deal since I parted from you, and all the rest of my friends. At our first coming hither, I thought every thing looked so strange about me: And when John got upon his horse, and rode out of the yard, methought every thing looked stranger and stranger; so I got up to the window, and looked after him, till he turned into the London road, (for you know we live a quarter of a mile on the farther side of it), and then I sat down and cried; and that always gives me some relief. Many a time have I cried since; but I do my best to dry up my tears, and to appear as cheerful as I can.

Dearest mother, I return you a thousand thanks for all the kind advice you were so good as to give me at parting; and I think it over often and often. But yet, methinks, it would be better if I had it in writing; that would be what I would value above all things: but I am afraid to ask for what would give you so much trouble. So, with my duty to you and my father, and kind love to all friends, I remain ever

Your most dutiful daughter.

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L E T T E R XIII.

Her Mother's answer.

My dear child,

I AM very sorry that you have suffered so much since we parted but it is always so at first, and will

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will wear away in time. I have had my share too, but I bear it now pretty well; and hope you will endeavour to follow my example in this, as you used to say you loved to do in every thing. You must consider, that we never should have parted with you, had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. You will get new friends there; and I think I can assure you, that you will lose no love here: for we all talk of you every evening; and every body speaks of you as fondly, or rather more fondly than ever they did. In the mean time, keep yourself employed as much as you can, which is the best way of wearing off any concern. Do all the business of your place; and be always ready to assist your fellow-servants where you can, in their business. This will both fill up your time, and help to endear you to them: and then you will soon have as many friends about you there, as you used to have here. I don't caution you against speaking ill of any body living, for I know you never used to do it: but if you hear a bad story of any body, try to soften it all you can; and never tell it again, but rather let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you already, from the good character I have heard of them; but I should be glad to see it confirmed by your next, and the more particular you are in it the better. If you have any time to spare from your business, I hope you will give a good share of it to your devotions: that is an exercise which gives comfort and spirits without tiring one. My prayers you have daily, I might have said hourly: and there is nothing that I pray for with more earnestness, than that my dearest child may do well. You did not mention any thing of your health in your last; but I had the pleasure of hearing you was well, by Mr. Cooper's young man, who said he called upon you in his way from London, and that you looked as

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fresh as a rose, and as bonny as a blackbird.—You know James's way of talking.—However, I was glad to hear you was well, and desire you would not forget to mention your health yourself in your next letter. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers their kind love to you. Heaven bless you, my dear child ! and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and more particularly to

Your affectionate mother.

L E T T E R X I V .

The daughter to the mother.

Dear mother,

TH^{O'} we begin to have such cold weather, I am got up into my chamber to write to you. God be thanked I am grown almost quite easy ; which is owing to my following your good advice, and the kindness that is already shewn me in the family. Betty and I are bedfellows ; and she, and Robin, and Thomas, are all so kind to me, that I can scarcely say which is the kindest. My master is sixty-five years of age next April ; but by his looks you would hardly take him to be fifty. He has always an easy smiling countenance ; and he is very good to all his servants. When he has happened to pass by me, as I have been dusting out the chambers, or in the passage, he generally says something to encourage me ; and that makes one's work go on more pleasantly. My mistress is as thin as my master is plump : not much short to him in age ; and more apt to be a little peevish. Indeed that may easily be borne ; for I have never heard my master say a single word of any of us, but what was kind and encouraging. My master, they say, is vastly rich ; for he is a prudent man, and laid up a great deal of money while he was in business, with which he purchased this estate here, and another in Suffex, some time before he left

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off. And they have, I find, a very good house in London, as well as this here; but my master and mistress both love the country best, and so they sometimes stay here for a whole winter, and all the summer constantly; of which I am very glad, because I am so much the nearer you: and I have heard so much of the wickedness of London, that I don't at all desire to go there. As to my fellow-servants, it is thought that Betty (who is very good-natured, and as merry as the day is long) is to be married to the jovial landlord over the way; and, to say the truth, I am apt to believe that they are actually promised to one another. Our coachman, Thomas, seems to be a very good worthy man: you may see by his eyes that it does his heart good whenever he can do a kind thing for any of the neighbours. He was born in the parish, and his father has a good farm of his own in it, and rents another. Robin, the footman is good-natured too; he is always merry, and loves to laugh as much as he loves to eat; and I'm sure he has a good stomach. But I need not talk of that, for now mine is come again, I eat almost as hearty as he does. With such fellow-servants, and such a master, I think, it would be my own fault if I am not happy. Well in health, I assure you I am, and begin to be pretty well in spirits; only my heart will heave a little still every time I look towards the road that goes to your house. Heaven bless you all there! and make me a deserving daughter of so good a mother!



LETTER XV.

The Mother's answer and advice.

Dear child,

THE next piece of advice that I gave you, was,
 "To think often how much a life of virtue is

“ to be preferred to a life of pleasure ; and how
 “ much better, and more lasting, a good name is
 “ than beauty.”

If we call things by their right names, there is nothing that deserves the name of pleasure so truly as virtue : but one must talk as people are used to talk ; and, I think, by a life of pleasure, they generally mean a life of gaiety.

Now, our gaieties, God knows, are at best very trifling, always unsatisfactory, often attended with difficulties in the procuring them, and fatigue in the very enjoyment, and too often followed by regret and self-condemnation. What they call a life of pleasure among the great, must be a very laborious life: they spend the greatest part of the nights in balls and assemblies, and fling away the greatest part of their days in sleep : their life is too much opposed to nature, to be capable of happiness : 'tis all a hurry of visits, twenty or thirty perhaps in a day, to persons of whom there are not above two or three that they have any real friendship or esteem for (supposing them to be capable of either :) a perpetual seeking after what they call diversions ; and insipidity, and want of taste, when they are engaged in them, and a certain languishing and restlessness when they are without them. This is not living, but a constant endeavour to cheat themselves out of the little time they have to live ; for they generally inherit a bad constitution, make it worse by their absurd way of life, and deliver a still weaker and weaker thread down to their children. I don't know any one thing more ridiculous, than the seeing their wrinkled fallow faces all set off with diamonds. Poor mistaken gentlewomen ! They should endeavour to avoid people's eyes as much as possible, and not to attract them ; for they are really a quite deplorable sight, and their very faces are a standing lesson again the strange lives they lead.

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ridiculously as those in a higher ; but even among them too there is a vast difference between the people that live well, and the people that live ill : the former are more healthy, in better spirits, fitter for business, and more attentive to it ; the latter are more negligent, more uneasy, more contemptible, and more diseased.

In truth, either in high or low life, virtue is only another name for happiness, and debauchery is the high road to misery ; and this, to me, appears just as true and evident, as that moderation is always good for us, and excess always hurtful.

But is it not a charming thing to have youth and beauty,—to be followed and admired,—to have presents offered from all sides to one,—to be invited to all diversions, and to be distinguished by the men from all the rest of the company?—Yes, my dear child. All this would be charming, if we had nothing to do but to dance, and receive presents, and if this distinction of you was to last always. But the mischief of it is, that these things cannot be enjoyed without encreasing your vanity every time you enjoy them, and swelling up a passion in you, that must soon be baulked and disappointed. How long is this beauty to last ? There are but few faces that can keep it to the other side of five and twenty ; and how would you bear it, after having been used to be thus distinguished and admired for some time, to sink out of the notice of people, and to be neglected, and perhaps affronted, by the very persons who used to pay the greatest adoration to you ?

Do you remember the gentleman that was with us last autumn, and his presenting you with that pretty flower one day, on his coming out of the garden ? I don't know whether you understood him or not ; but I could read it in his looks, that he meant it for a lesson to you. It is true, the flower was quite a pretty one ; but tho' you put it in water, you know it faded, and grew disagreeable in four

or five days ; and had it not been cropped, but suffered to grow on in the garden, it would have done the same in nine or ten. Now a year is to beauty, what a day was to that flower ; and who would value themselves much on the possession of a thing, which they are so sure to lose in so short a time ?

Nine or ten years are, what one may call the natural term of life for beauty in a young woman : but by accidents, or misbehaviour it may die long before its time. The greater part of what people call beauty in your face, for instance, is owing to that air of innocence and modesty that is in it : if once you should suffer yourself to be ruined by any base man, all that would soon vanish, and assurance and ugliness would come in the room of it.

And if other bad consequences should follow, (for other bad ones there are, of more sorts than one), you would lose your bloom too, and then all is gone ! But keep your reputation, as you have hitherto kept it, and that will be a beauty which shall last to the end of your days ; for it will be only the more confirmed and brightened by time : that will secure you esteem, when all the present form of your face is vanished away, and will be always melting into greater and greater charms. These my sentiments you'll take as a blessing, and remember they come from the heart of a tender and affectionate mother.

E. C.



L E T T E R XVI.

A son's letter at school to his father.

Honoured Sir,

I Am greatly obliged to you for all your favours ; all I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for the same. Gratitude, duty, and a view of future advantages,

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vantages, all contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labour for my own improvement and your satisfaction, and to shew myself, upon all occasions,

Your most obedient and ever dutiful son,

ROBERT MOLESWORTH.



L E T T E R X V I I .

A letter of excuse to a father or mother.

Honoured Sir, or Madam,

I Am informed, and it gives me great concern, that you have heard an ill report of me, which, I suppose, was raised by some of my school-fellows; who either envy my esteem, or by aggravating my faults, would endeavour to lessen their own; though, I must own, I have been a little too remiss in my school-business, and am now sensible I have lost in some measure my time and credit thereby; but, by my future diligence, I hope to recover both, and to convince you that I pay a strict regard to all your commands, which I am bound to, as well in gratitude as duty; and hope I shall ever have leave, and with great truth, to subscribe myself,

Your most dutiful son, PHILIP COLLINGS.



L E T T E R X V I I I .

To Mr. ———.

Tunbridge.

I Think I promised you a letter from this place; yet I have nothing more material to write than that I got safe hither. To any other man I should make an apology for troubling you with an information so trivial: but among true friends there is nothing indifferent;

indifferent; and what would seem of no consequence to others, has, in intercourses of this nature, its weight and value. A bystander unacquainted with play, may fancy, perhaps, that the counters are of no more worth than they appear; but those who are engaged in the game, know they are to be considered at a higher rate. You see I draw my allusions from the scene before me: A propriety which the critics, I think, upon some occasions recommend. I have often wondered what odd whim could first induce the healthy to follow the sick into places of this sort, and lay the scene of their diversions amidst the most wretched part of our species. One should imagine an hospital the last spot in the world to which those in pursuit of pleasure would think of resorting. However, so it is; and by this means the company here furnish out a tragi-comedy of the most singular kind. While some are literally dying, others are expiring in a metaphor; and in one scene you are presented with the real, and in another with the fantastical pains of mankind. An ignorant spectator might be apt to suspect that each part was endeavouring to qualify itself for acting in the opposite character; for the infirm cannot labour more earnestly to recover the strength they have lost, than the robust to destroy that which they possess. Thus the diseased pass not more anxious nights in their beds, than the healthy at the hazard-tables; and I frequently see a game at quadrille occasion as severe disquietudes as a fit of the gout. As for myself, I perform a sort of middle part in the motley drama, and am sometimes disposed to join with the invalids in envying the healthy, and sometimes have spirits enough to mix with the gay in pitying the splenetic.

The truth is, I have found some benefit by the waters; but I shall not be so sanguine as to pronounce with certainty of their effects, till I see how they enable me to pass through the approaching winter. That season, you know, is the time of trial with me:

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and if I get over the next with more ease than the last, I shall think myself obliged to celebrate the nymph of these springs in grateful sonnets.

But let time and seasons operate as they may, there is one part of me, over which they will have no power; and in all the changes of this uncertain constitution, my heart will ever continue fixed and firmly yours.

I am, &c.



L E T T E R XIX.

From a young apprentice to his father, to let him know how he likes his place, and goes on.

Honoured Sir,

I Know it will be a great satisfaction to you, and my dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business; and my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner, that I have great delight in it: and hope I shall answer in time your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shewn me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress's part as my master's, that every servant, as well as I, knows his duty, and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness, and regularity, is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest, worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful sweet-tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. And the children, after such examples, behave to us all like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish, when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does; and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress: and then, by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are,

are, and as you, Sir, and my dear mother, have always been. If any thing can make me happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours, and my good mother's prayers, for Honoured Sir,

Your ever dutiful son.



LETTER XX.

From a daughter to her mother, by way of excuse for having neglected to write to her.

Honoured Madam,

THO' the agreeable news of your health and welfare, which was brought me last night by the hands of my uncle's man Robin, gives me an inexpressible pleasure; yet I am very much concerned that my too long silence should have given you so much uneasiness as I understand it has. I can assure you, Madam, that my neglect in that particular was nowise owing to any want of filial duty or respect, but to a hurry of business, (if I may be allowed to call it so,) occasioned by the honour of a visit from my Lady Betty Brilliant, and her pretty niece Miss Charlotte, who are exceeding good company, and whom our family are proud of entertaining in the most elegant manner. I am not insensible, however, that neither this plea, nor any real business, of what importance soever, can justly acquit me for not writing oftener to a parent so tender and indulgent as yourself: but, as the case now stands, I know no other way of making atonement, than by a sincere promise of a more strict observance of my duty for the future. If therefore, Madam, you will favour me so far as to forgive this first transgression, you may depend on my word, it shall never more be repeated by,

Honourable Madam,

Your most dutiful daughter.

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L E T T E R XXI.

From Robin Redbreast in the garden, to Master BILLY CARELESS abroad at school.

Dear Master Billy,

AS I was looking into your pappa's library-window, last Wednesday, I saw a letter lie open, signed *William Careless*, which led my curiosity to read it; but was sorry to find there was not that duty and respect in it, which every good boy should shew to his pappa; and this I was the more surpris'd at, when I found it was to ask a favour of him. Give me leave, therefore, dear Billy, to acquaint you, that no one should ever write to his pappa, or mamma, without beginning his letter with *Honoured Sir*, or *Honoured Madam*; and at the same time, not forget to observe, thro' his whole epistle, the most perfect obedience, in a very obliging, respectful manner. By these means, you may not only increase your pappa's affection, but obtain almost any thing from him, that you can reasonably ask, provided it be proper, and in his power to grant. What can any good boy desire more? But here you must permit me, dear Billy, to whistle an unpleasing but very useful song in your ear; which is, "That you will never get so much as an answer to any letter that is not also wrote *handsome, fair, and large*; which, as I know you are very capable of, am surpris'd you will ever neglect it." And this you may depend on, for I know your pappa extremely well, having frequently sat for hours at his study-window, hearing him deliver his sentiments to your sisters, and advising them, in the most good-natured affectionate manner, always to behave obedient to their parents, and pretty and agreeable to every body else, as well abroad as at home; and I must say it, his advice and commands, together with your mamma's care and instruction, have had so charming an effect, that

they

they are beloved and admired where-ever they go ; and at home every servant is extremely fond of them, and always ready to oblige and please them in every thing, which I see daily, when I hop down into the court to breakfast on the crumbs from the kitchen. How easy then is it for you, my dear Billy, who are so much older and wiser than your sisters to behave and write in the most dutiful and engaging manner. And further let me advise you, never to lose sight of the love and esteem of your mamma, to whom you are all particularly obliged, for her constant care to supply your continual wants, which your pappa, you are sensible, has not leisure even to think of ; besides, her good sense and amiable conduct have so gained the ascendant of your pappa, that he does nothing relating to any of you without her consent and approbation ; so that in gaining her esteem, you are almost certain of his : but this you are very sensible of already, and I only just chirp it in your ear, to remind you of good conduct, as well as filial duty.

But the morning draws on, and my fellow-songsters are abroad to whistle in the day ; so I must take my leave on the wing, and for the present bid you farewell ; but beg I may never have occasion again to write to you an unpleasing letter of rebuke ; and that you will always remember, however distant you are, or however secret you may think yourself from your friends and relations, you will never be able to conceal your faults ; for some of our prying tattling tribe will be continually carrying them home, to be whistled in a melancholy strain, in the ears of your pappa, much to your shame and discredit, as well as his dislike, and my great concern, who am dearest Billy, your ever watchful and most affectionate friend,

ROBIN REDBREAST.

From my hole in the wall, at
sun-rising, the 1st of June, 1776.

P. S. However neglectful you may be of your duty, I know you have too much good sense, as
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well as good nature, to take any thing amiss that I have said in this letter, which is wrote with the freedom and concern of a friend, and to which I was prompted both by love and gratitude, in return for the plenty of crumbs I have received at your hands, and the kind protection you have always shewn me, both in the court and in the garden, from some of your idle companions, who, with sticks and stones, have often in your absence, aimed at my life.

ROBIN REDBREAST.



L E T T E R XXII.

From one sister to another.

Dear sister,

Ever since you went to London, your favourite acquaintance Mrs. Friendly and myself, have thought our rural amusements dull and insipid, notwithstanding we have the players in town, and an assembly once a week. At your departure, if you remember, you passed your word to return in a month's time; but, instead of that, it is now almost a quarter of a year. How can you serve us so? In short, if you keep us in suspense much longer, we are determined to follow you, and find you out, let the expence and length of the journey be what it will. We live in hopes, however, that, upon the receipt of this notice, you'll return without any farther delay, and prevent our taking such an unmerciful jaunt. Your compliance with this our joint request, will highly oblige, not only your most sincere and affectionate friends, but

Your ever loving sister.

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L E T T E R XXIII.

In answer to the foregoing.

Dear Sister,

I Received your summons, and can assure Mrs. Friendly, as well as yourself, that my long stay in town, notwithstanding all the good company I have met with, and all the diversions with which I have been indulged, has been quite contrary to my inclinations; and nothing but my Lady Townly's absolute commands not to leave her, should have prevented my return to you within the time proposed. You are sensible I have infinite obligations to her, and it would be ingratitude to the last degree, not to comply with her injunctions. In order, however, to make you both ample amends for that uneasiness which my long absence has given you, I shall use my utmost endeavours to prevail with her Ladyship to join with me in a visit to you both in the spring, and to stay with you for a month at least, if not longer. I would advise you therefore to save an unnecessary expence, as well as fatigue, and rest contented where you are, till you see

Your ever loving
and affectionate sister.



L E T T E R XXIV.

From Lady Goodford to her daughter, a girl of fourteen years old, then under the care of her grandmother in the country.

My dear Child,

THOUGH I know you want no precepts under my mother's care to instruct you in all moral and religious duties, yet there are some things she may possibly forget to remind you of, which are highly necessary for the forming your mind, so as to make that

that figure in the world, I could wish you to do.—I am certain you will be kept up to your music, singing, and dancing, by the best masters the country affords; and need not doubt, but you will very often be told, that good housewifery is a most commendable quality.—I would have you, indeed, neglect none of these branches of education; but, my dear, I should be grieved to hear you were so much attached to them, as not to be able to devote two hours, at least, every day to reading.—My father left a collection of very excellent books in all languages behind him, which are yet in being; and as you are tolerably well acquainted with the French and Italian, would have you not to be altogether a stranger to their authors. Poetry, if it be good, (as in that library you will find none that is not so), very much elevates the ideas, and harmonizes the soul; and well-wrote novels are an amusement, in which sometimes you may indulge yourself. But history is what I would chiefly recommend;—without some knowledge of this, you will be accounted at best, but an agreeable trifler.—I would have you gay, lively and entertaining; but then I would have you able to improve, as well as to divert the company you may happen to fall into.

But, my dear child, I must warn you to beware with what disposition you sit down to read books of this nature; for if you slightly skim them over, and merely to gratify your curiosity with the amazing events delivered in them, the research will afford you little advantage.—You must, therefore, consider what you read;—mark well the chain of accidents which bring on any great catastrophe; and this will shew you that nothing happens by chance, but all is entirely governed by the directions of an over-ruling power.—In distinguishing the true causes of the rise and fall of empires, and those strange revolutions that have happened in most kingdoms of the world, you will admire divine justice,

and be far from accusing Providence of partiality, when you find, as frequently you will, the good dethroned, all rights both human and divine sacrilegiously trampled upon, a mock authority established in the place of a real one, and lawless usurpation prosper; because, at the same time, you will see that this does not happen, till a people, grown bold in iniquity, and ripe for destruction, have drawn down upon themselves the severest vengeance of offended heaven, which is tyranny and oppression; and though innocent individuals may suffer in the general calamity, yet it is for the good of the whole, in order to bring them to a just sense of their transgressions, and turn them from their evil ways.—This the historical part of the Bible makes manifest in numberless instances; and this, the calamities which at different times have befallen every kingdom and commonwealth, evidently confirm.

I am the more particular in giving you these cautions, because, without observing them, you may be liable to imbibe prejudices which will pervert your judgment, and render you guilty of injustice, without knowing you are so. As you regard therefore my commands, which will always be for your improvement and emolument, never be remiss in this point.

Next to history, I should be glad to see you have some smattering in natural philosophy: for which purpose let me recommend to your perusal a work, entitled, *Spectacle de la Nature*; or, *Nature delineated, from the French of Abbe le Pluche*; being very entertaining philosophical conversations, wherein the wonderful works of providence, in the animal, vegetable, and mineral creation are laid open, in four pocket-volumes; in which are interspersed a great variety of useful and explanatory cuts.—Believe me, child, the wide creation presents nothing that affords not infinite matter for a delightful speculation; and the more you examine the works of nature, the
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more you will learn to love and adore the great God of nature, the fountain of all pleasure.

I expect your next will be filled with no inquiries on new fashions, nor any directions to your milliner; nor shall I be better satisfied with an account of your having begun, or finished, such or such a piece of fine work:—this may inform you that it is other kinds of learning I would have you versed in.—I flatter myself with seeing my commands obeyed, and that no part of what I have said will be lost upon you, which a little more time and knowledge of the world will shew you the value of, and prove to you more than any indulgence I could treat you with, how very much I am

Your affectionate mother,
SOPHRONIA.



LETTER XXV.

To a young lady, cautioning her against keeping company with a gentleman of a bad character.

Dear Niece,

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, not long since deceased, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me to inform you, rather by letter than by word of mouth, that the town reigns of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedoms that you take with Mr. Free-love. You have been seen with him (if fame lies not) in the side-boxes at both theatres; in St James's Park on Sunday night, and afterwards at a certain tavern, not a mile from thence, which is a house (as I have been credibly informed) of no good re-

pute. You have both, moreover, been seen at Ranelagh assembly, Vaux-hall gardens, and what is still more flagrant, at Cuper's fire works. Don't imagine, niece, that I am in the least prejudiced, or speak out of any private pique; but let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me no small concern, as his character is none of the best; and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner by two or three very virtuous young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favourable an opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as you have no great expectancies from your relations, and he has an income, as 'tis reported, of 200 l. a year left him by his uncle, that you may be tempted to imagine his address an offer to your advantage. It is much to be questioned, however, whether his intentions are sincere; for, notwithstanding all the fair promises he may possibly make you, I have heard it whispered, that he is privately engaged to a rich, old doating lady not far from Hackney. Besides, admitting it to be true, that he is really entitled to the annuity above-mentioned; yet it is too well known, that he is deep in debt; that he lives beyond his income, and has very little, if any regard for his reputation. In short, not to mince the matter, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his raillery and ridicule.

All things therefore duly considered, let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company as you would a madman; for notwithstanding I still think you strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. As I have no other motive, but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare, I flatter myself you'll put a favourable construction on the liberty here taken by

Your sincere friend, and affectionate aunt.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXVI.

Letter of thanks, &c.

S I R,

I Received the favour of yours, with a very kind present; and know not indeed, at this time, any other way to shew my gratitude, than by my hearty thanks for the same. Every thing you do carries a charm with it; your manner of doing it is as agreeable as the thing done. In short, Sir, my heart is full, and would overflow with gratitude, did I not stop, and subscribe myself, Your most obliged, and

Obedient humble servant,

JOHN WADMAN.



L E T T E R XXVII.

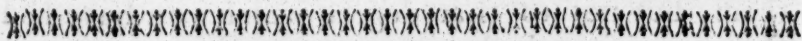
From an apprentice to his friends.

Honoured father and mother,

BY these I let you know, that by your good care and conduct I am well settled, and pleased with my station, and think it my duty to return you my hearty thanks, and grateful acknowledgment of your love and tender care of me: I will endeavour to go thro' my business cheerfully. And having begun well, I hope I shall persevere to do so to the end, that I may be a comfort to you hereafter, and in some measure make a return for your love and kindness to me, who am

Your most dutiful and obedient son and servant,

CHARLES SEDGELY.



L E T T E R XXVIII.

From an elder brother to a younger.

Dear Brother,

AS you are now gone from home, and are arrived at years of some discretion, I thought it not amiss to put you in mind, that your childish affairs ought

ought now to be entirely laid aside, and instead of them more serious thoughts, and things of more consequence, should take place; whereby we may add to the reputation of our family, and gain to ourselves the good esteem of being virtuous and diligent in life, which is of great value, and ought to be studied beyond any trifling amusements whatsoever: for it will be an ornament in youth, and a comfort in old age.

You have too much good nature to be offended at my advice, especially when I assure you, that I as sincerely wish your happiness and advancement in life as I do my own. We are all, thank God, very well, and desire to be remembered to you. Pray write as often as opportunity and leisure will permit; and be assured a letter from you will always give great pleasure to all your friends here, but to none more than

Your most affectionate brother,
And sincere humble servant,

EDWARD STANLEY

L E T T E R XXIX.

A letter from a nephew to an uncle, who wrote to him a letter of rebuke.

Honoured Sir,

I Received your kind advice, and by the contents of your letter, perceive I have been represented to you as one of immoral principles. I dare not write you any excuse for the follies and frailties of youth, because, in some measure, I own I have been guilty of them, but not to that degree which you have had them represented: however, your rebuke is not unseasonable, and it shall have the desired effect, as well to frustrate the designs of my enemies, (who aim to prejudice you against me), as to please you, and obey all your commands and advice; which I now sincerely thank you for giving me, and promise, for the future, I will make it my study to reform, and regain,
by

by adhering strictly to your instructions, the good opinion you was once so kind to entertain of me. I beg my duty to my aunt, and am,

Your most obliged and ever dutiful nephew,
HENRY MONTAGU.



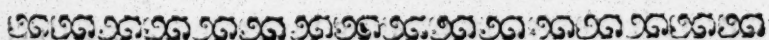
L E T T E R X X X .

Letter from a niece to her aunt.

Madam,

THE trouble I have already given you really concerns me when I think of it, and yet I can't help intruding again upon your goodness; for necessity, that mother of invention, forces us to act contrary to our inclinations: therefore, pray, dear Madam, excuse me if I once more entreat your assistance in this affair, in any manner that you shall think proper; and I hope at least one time in my life, to be able to convince you, that I have a thorough sense of the many obligations your goodness has conferred upon

Your most dutiful and truly obliged niece,
And very humble servant,
JANE PEMBERTON.



L E T T E R X X X I .

Letter from a youth at school to his parents.

Honoured father and mother,

YOUR kind letter of the 24th inst. I received in due time, and soon after the things you therein mentioned, by the carrier, for which I return you my sincere thanks. They came very opportunely for my occasions. I hope soon to improve myself at school, though I own it seems a little hard and irksome.

some to me as yet ; but my master gives me great encouragement, and assures me I shall soon get the better of the little difficulties that almost every boy meets with at first, and then it will be a perfect pleasure instead of a task, and altogether as pleasant and easy, as it is now irksom and hard.

My humble duty to yourselves ; and I beg the favour of you to give my kind love to my brothers and sisters, and remember me to all friends and acquaintance ; and you'll oblige

Your ever dutiful and obedient son,
CHARLES GOODENOUGH.

L E T T E R XXXII.

Letter from an apprentice in town, to his friends in the country.

THE bearer Henry Jones, came to see me last night, and told me he should set out for home the next morning. I was not willing to let slip the opportunity of sending you a letter by him, to let you know that I am very well, and like both my master and mistress, and, by what I can see of it, the business entirely well ; and do intend (please God) to use my utmost endeavours to make myself master of every thing that belongs to it ; in which I shall have treble satisfaction ; first, in pleasing my master, secondly, in pleasing my friends, and thirdly, in benefiting myself. I have but little leisure, nor do I want a great deal ; but will take every opportunity to let you know how I go on, and that I am, with great gratitude,

Your ever dutiful and most obedient son, T. R.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

From Miss R. at S. to her sister in Salisbury.

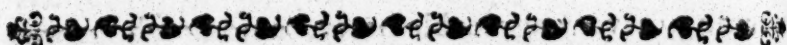
I Have often, I may say very often, proposed writing a long epistle to my dearest Sukey, and have

as often been prevented. Miss P. was to have been the bearer of one; but, to my great surprise, she left me without taking leave, nay, without giving notice of her going, and I never so much as saw her since yesterday se'ennight, when I very agreeably spent the day with her and Mrs. H——, at Mr. W——'s, at M——. My uncle, whom I also intended to have wrote by, went away, (as you know he always does) in such a hurry, that I had no time to set about writing a long letter, and a short one I knew would by no means atone for such a long silence. You complain in your last of my writing with too much reserve; for my own part, I think I write with too little, when I reflect on some particulars that my uncle rallied me upon before he went hence; which he never could have known, had he not seen my letters, or been acquainted with the contents of them. What say you to that, my dear? But I forgive. — Well, but what news? say you: I'll tell you. Last Monday morning, a very agreeable party, among whom was Aunt R——, met us at a sweet pleasant cottage of content on Westphalia Common; they brought with them a little elegant repast, exactly suited to the size of the cottage, which, though but just big enough for us to sit down in, was capable of holding a world of happiness, as we proved; for the weather was extremely pleasant, the company perfectly harmonious, and we were all excessively agreeable to each other; but in an instant, for such a day of pleasure seemed but a moment, the still evening came on, and all our joys were hushed. In short, about eight o'clock we broke up from this sweet little rural retreat, which, believe me, dear Sukey, afforded high entertainment for a day to us all. I wished greatly that you could have been a partaker; but, however, at your return we will attempt the like again. By the help of your company, 'tis possible we may succeed as well a second time; though that I must own, an expectation of this sort is seldom the case. Well, for

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for the present, I will take my leave of the cot ; and now for the news of the town. The first that occurs to me is the marriage of our old mistress, who thought it better late than never, and last Friday shook hands for life with Mr. S. the draper. He is a little advanced as well as she, but no matter ; why may there not be pleasure at the latter time of life, as well as at the beginning ? Though, for my own part, I must confess, I am not for putting happiness off till to-morrow, if it may be as well had to-day.

But to be serious, my dear, there is no other news all over the town worth mentioning ; 'tis all as insipid as the last dish of old batchelor's tea. But when are we to see you ? You have long, very long, talked of returning home ; pray talk no more of it, nay write no more, but instead of your agreeable letters, let us have your more agreeable company, and you'll most truly oblige Your affectionate sister, E. R.



L E T T E R XXXIV.

From an elder brother in the country, to his younger brother put apprentice in London.

Dear Brother,

I Am very glad to hear you are pleased with the new situation into which the care of your friends has put you ; but I would have you pleased, not with the novelty of it, but with the real advantage. It is natural for you to be glad that you are under less restraint than you were ; for a master has neither occasion nor inclination to watch a youth, so much as his parents. But if you are not careful, this, altho' it now gives you a childish satisfaction, may, in the end, betray you into mischief ; nay, to your ruin. Though your father is not in sight, dear brother, act always as if you were in his presence ; and be as-

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You have more sense, I have often told you so, than most persons at your time. Now is the opportunity to make a good use of it; and take this for certain, every right step you enter upon now, will be a comfort to you for your life. I would have your reason as well as your fancy pleased with your new situation, and then you will act as becomes you. Consider, brother, that the state of life that charms you so at this time, will bring you to independence and affluence, that you will, by behaving as you ought now, become master of a house and family, and have every thing about you at your own command, and have apprentices as well as servants to wait upon you. The master, with whom you are placed, was some years ago in your situation; and what should hinder you from being hereafter in his? All that is required is patience and industry; and these, brother, are very cheap articles, with which to purchase so comfortable a condition.

Your master, I am told, had nothing to begin the world withal. In that he was worse than you; for if you behave well, there are those who will set you up in a handsome manner. So you have sufficient inducements to be good, and a reward always follows it. Brother, farewell! Obey your master, and be civil to all persons; keep out of company, for boys have no occasion for it, and most that you will meet with is very bad. Be careful and honest, and God will bless you. If ever you commit a fault, confess it at once; for the lie in denying it, is worse than the thing itself. Go to church constantly; and write to us often. I think I need not say more to so good a lad as you, to induce you to continue so. I am

Your affectionate brother.

H

L E T.

L E T T E R XXXV.

A letter of excuse for silence, and assurance it was not out of disrespect.

There are times, Madam, in which it is failing in care, not to write to one's friends; there are others in which it is prudence. Methinks it better becomes an unhappy man to be silent than to speak; for he tires if he speaks of his misery, or he is ridiculous if he attempts to be diverting. I have not done myself the honour of writing to you since my departure, to avoid one or other of these inconveniencies. I have too much respect for you, Madam, to importune you with my griefs; and I am not fool enough to have a mind to laugh. I know very well that there may be a mean between these two extremes; but, after all, the correspondence of the unhappy is seldom pleasing to those who are in prosperity. And yet, Madam, there are duties with which one ought not to dispense; and it is to acquit myself of them, that I now assure you that no one can be with more esteem and respect than I am,

Your faithful and affectionate servant, I. B.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

A letter from a servant in London, to his master in the country.

S I R,

AS I find you are detained longer in the country than you expected, I thought it my duty to acquaint you that we are all well at home; and to assure you that your business shall be carried on with the same care and fidelity as if you were personally present. We all wish for your return as soon as your affairs will permit; and it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of subscribing myself, Sir,

Your most obedient, and faithful servant,

SAM. TRUSTY.

L E T

L E T T E R XXXVII.

From a father to his son, just beginning the world.

Dear Billy,

AS you are now beginning life, as it were, and will probably have considerable dealings in your business, the frequent occasions you will have for advice from others, will make you desirous of singling out amongst your most intimate acquaintance one or two whom you would view in the light of friends.

In the choice of these, your utmost care and caution will be necessary; for, by a mistake here, you can scarcely conceive the fatal effects you may hereafter experience. Wherefore it will be proper for you to make a judgment of those who are fit to be your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs, and the reputation they bear in the world. For he who has by his own indiscretions undone himself, is much fitter to be set up as a land-mark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than an example to follow.

Old age is generally slow and heavy, youth headstrong and precipitate; but there are old men who are full of vivacity, and young men replete with discretion; which makes me rather point out the conduct than the age of the persons with whom you should chuse to associate; though, after all, it is a never-failing good sign to me of prudence and virtue in a young man, when his seniors chuse his company, and he delights in theirs.

Let your endeavours therefore be, at all adventures, to consort yourself with men of sobriety, good sense, and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one, that says, *A man is known by the company he keeps*. If such men you can single out, while you improve by their conversation, you will benefit by their advice; and be sure remember one thing, that though you must be frank and unreserved in delivering your sentiments,

ments, when occasions offer, yet that you be much readier to hear than speak ; for to this purpose it has been significantly observed, that nature has given a man two ears, and but one tongue. Lay in therefore by observation, and a modest silence, such a store of ideas, that you may, at their time of life, make no worse figure than they do ; and endeavour to benefit yourself rather by other people's ills than your own. How must those young men expose themselves to the contempt and ridicule of their seniors, who, having seen little or nothing of the world, are continually shutting out, by open mouths and closed ears, all possibility of instruction, and making vain the principal end of conversation, which is improvement ? A silent young man makes generally a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men. When therefore you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments ; by this means you will judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and avoid exposing yourself, as I have known many do, by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts, which they would have been glad to recal ; when perhaps a silent genius in company has burst out upon them with such observations as have struck consciousness and shame into the forward speaker, if he has not been quite insensible of inward reproach.

I have thrown together, as they occurred, a few thoughts, which may suffice for the present to shew my care and concern for your welfare. I hope you will constantly, from time to time, communicate to me whatever you may think worthy of my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you ; for I have no pleasure in this life equal to that which the happiness of my children gives me. And of this you may be assured ; for I am, and ever must be,

Your affectionate father.

L E T-

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L E T T E R XXXVIII.

To an intimate acquaintance to borrow money.

PRAY favour me, Charles, with twenty guineas, by the bearer, who is my servant. I have immediate occasion; but will repay it again whenever you please to make a demand. This letter will answer all the purposes of a note: from your obliged humble servant,

RICHARD ROLT.



L E T T E R XXXIX.

To an acquaintance to borrow a sum of money for a little time.

Dear Sir,

IF it be quite convenient and agreeable to you, I'll beg the favour of you to lend me fifty pounds for the space of three months precisely: any security that you shall require, and I can give, you may freely ask. A less time would not suit me; a longer, you may depend on it, I shall not desire. Your answer will oblige, Sir, your very humble servant,

JOHN ROBINSON.



L E T T E R XL.

An answer to the foregoing.

Dear Sir,

ANY thing in my power is always very much at your service; the sum you mention I have now by me, and can very conveniently spare it for the time you fix, and you are most heartily welcome to it. Any hour that you shall appoint to-morrow I'll be ready: and am, with the greatest sincerity,

Your affectionate friend and humble servant,

CHARLES NUGENT.

L E T T E R XLI.

Miss F——, in answer to Mrs. ——, making an apology for not answering her letter sooner.

Madam,

IT is paying you but an ill compliment, to let one of the most entertaining letters I have met with for some years, remain so long unacknowledged. But when I inform you I've had a house full of strangers almost ever since, who have taken up all my time, I'm sure you'll excuse, if not pity me. "Who steals my purse, steals trash; it was mine, it is his, and has been a slave to thousands; but he who filches from me my precious moments, robs me of that which not enriches him, but makes me poor in deed." It is owing to this want, I should not say loss of time, (for the hours have not passed by unimproved or unentertaining,) that I have not been able to tell you sooner, how much I envy that leisure and retirement, of which you make such admirable use: there it is the mind unbends and enlarges itself; drops off the forms and incumbrances of this world, (which like garments trailed about for state, as some author has it, only hinder our motion), and seizes and enjoys the liberty it was born to. O when shall I see my little farm! that calm recess, low in the vale of obscurity, my imagination so often paints to me! You know I'm always in raptures about the country; but your description of Richmond is enough to intoxicate the soundest head.

Adieu! I am interrupted, and in haste, so obliged to conclude.

Your's, &c.

XX

L E T T E R XLII.

Miss F—— to Miss Lovelace, on the present letter-writers, and her opinion of a well-wrote letter.

WAnt of time is, I think, the general complaint of all letter-writers; and, your's in haste, concludes

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concludes wit, business, every thing. For my own part, my whole life is little more than a perpetual hurry of doing nothing; and, I think, I never had more business of that sort upon my hands than now. But as I can generally find time to do any thing I have a mind to do, so can always contrive to be at leisure to pay my respects to Miss L.

But the most universal complaint among scriblers of my rank, is, want of sense. These generally begin with an apology for their long silence, and end with that moving petition, Excuse this nonsense. This is modest, indeed; but, though I am excessive good-natured, I am resolved for the future not to pardon it entirely in any one but myself.

I have often thought there never was a letter wrote well, but what was wrote easily; and, if I had not some private reasons for being of a contrary opinion at this time, should conclude this to be a master-piece of the kind, both in easiness of thought and facility of expression. And in this easiness of writing (which Mr. Wycherly says, is easily wrote) methinks I excel even Mr. Pope himself; who is often too elaborate and ornamental, even in some of his best letters; though, it must be confessed, he outdoes me in some few trifles of another sort, such as spirit, taste, and sense. But let me tell Mr. Pope, that letters, like beauties, may be over-drest. There is a becoming negligence in both; and if Mr. Pope could only contrive to write without a genius, I don't know any one so likely to hit off my manner as himself. But he insists upon it, that genius is as necessary towards writing, as straw towards making bricks; whereas, it is notorious that the Israelites made bricks without that material as well as with it.

The conclusion of the whole matter is this; I never had more inclination to write to you, and never fewer materials at hand to write with: therefore have fled for refuge to my old companion, dulness, who is ever at hand to assist me; and have made use of

of all those genuine expressions of herself, which are included under the notion of want of time, want of spirit, and, in short, want of every thing, but the most unfeigned regard for that lady, whose most devoted

I remain, &c.



LETTER XLIII.

To Miss L. in answer to her description of Windsor.

YOUR account of the shades of Windsor, and your invitation to them, are equally pleasing and poetical. The first puts me in mind of the Elysian groves, where the great souls of antiquity repose themselves on beds of flowers to the sound of immortal lyres; and there perhaps the ghosts of departed kings and queens are still regaling themselves with soft music, and gliding about their ancient mansions in fresco; and the latter, of some gentle spirit, the departed genius of some maid of honour, (rather too plump for a ghost), who beckons me into them. I am impatient till I land in those calm retreats, that asylum from court'ying and compliment, which I despaired of arriving at in this sublunary state; where, if one but can get into the group, all distinction ceases; where, you say, I may do any thing I have a mind to do, without impeachment of my breeding; and where, disengaged from all the forms and incumbrances of this nether world, I am like to be in perfect good humour with myself, which, in most other places, would be reckoned excessively rude.

Little did I expect to meet with you so near the seat of polite education, much less in king's palaces, and among their honourable women.—Tuesday then, I set out for the glorious land, and the genius that presides over it, if nothing very amazing inter-

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venes. Many are my thanks for your offer of a servant to meet me; but as I chuse to give you as little trouble as possible, shall take an equipage along with me, to kill the dragons and monsters in Maidenhead thicket. These difficulties being overcome, I shall lay my spoils at your feet, as lady of the enchanted castle, and ever after remain,

Your peaceful servant, &c.



L E T T E R XLIV.

Miss J. to Miss L. from an inn on the road, giving an account of her journey.

A Las! the transition!—from yesterday, Henrietta-street, Mrs. L. and Mrs. —, to a nasty inn, the officious Mrs. Mary, damp sheets, and perhaps the itch before morning. Yet say not I want resolution; never virtue had more. Sick to death from the moment you left me, head-ach beyond description, five men and two women to compliment my way through in the afternoon: yet boldly rushed through them all, and took my place in the stage-coach myself. After all, lost five shillings earnest by a blunder, went in a wrong coach at last, and such a morning!—But then I had a worshipful society! all silent and sick as myself; for which I thanked my stars: for if they had spoke, I had been murdered. Mrs. — had almost talked me into non-existence yesterday morning; and I had been totally annihilated, if you had not come in and restored me to my identity. Pray tell her this, in revenge for my head-ach.

All our friends that we took up in the morning, we dropt gradually one by one, as we do when we set out upon the journey of life; and now I have only a young student of Oxford to finish the evening of my day with, and prepare for the grand events

tired of telling people for ever, things came safe. We geniuses are forced to vary our expressions, and invent new terms, as well to shew our surprising compass of thought, as our great command of language. This sometimes appears stiff and affected to the common class of readers, or hearers, who are apt to be out of their element, upon hearing any new or unusual sounds; but our nicer ears cannot always bear the same cadences. There's something peculiar in the make and structure of the auditory nerve, that requires diversification and variety, as well as some skill in the anatomy of language, to make an impression on it, without wounding it. It is for this reason, when I ask a favour, (a thing I seldom chuse to do,) I always select the most delicate phrases I am mistress of; but in regard to forms, which most people are sick of, and yet surfeit their friends with, these I vary according as my own humour or inclination preponderates. Of consequence, when I come towards the end, or peroration of a letter, I sometimes communicate my compliments—sometimes desire they may be made known—or where there is a large family, and of consequence a number of civilities to be paid, the laconic style of—My deferences as usual, has sometimes succeeded beyond my expectation. I am sick of saying for ever, I beg my compliments to such a one.—But as I propose soon to give your Ladyship a particular dissertation upon style, and as I have many flowers of rhetoric yet inexhausted, I shall wind up the words above-mentioned into the form of a letter, and communicate all the things I have to say in the postscript.



L E T T E R XLVI.

From Miss Jones to Lady ———.

THE first letter from an absent friend is surely the most agreeable thing to muse over in nature.
Yours

Yours from Hatfield revived in me those pleasing remembrances which not only enliven, but expand the heart; that very heart, which, but the moment before, felt itself mightily shrunk and contracted at the thoughts of your departure. Lady H. Beauclerk partook of the pleasure. The moment she saw your hand, she cried Half!—and read it most complacently over my shoulder.

It is to no purpose to tell you how much you were missed by every body that staid in town; how often I cast my eyes up at your dressing-room windows, or how many people I have run over in contemplating your dining-room shutters. All I have to beg of you is, to write to me very often, to be mindful of your health, and to order John, when I go to town again, to tie up that knocker. I could tell you many stories of the sensible things; but of all the insensible ones upon this occasion, your lamp provoked me the most. To see that creature, when I have gone by in the evening, burn so prettily, and with so much alacrity, has put me out of all patience. To what purpose should he light us into your house now! Or who would be obliged to him for his paltry rays?—I took a contemplative turn or two in your dressing-room once or twice; but it was so like walking over your grave, that I could not bear to stay.—Lady H. departed two days after you; and, in short, I lived to see almost every body I loved go before me. So last Saturday I made my own exit, with equal decency and dignity; that is, with a thorough resignation of the world I left, and an earnest desire after that I am now enjoying with Lady Bowyer and Miss Peggy Stonehouse. I shall begin verging towards my last home, after having just touched upon the confines of Lady H. B.'s world, there to subside and be at peace, where I shall have nothing farther to hope for, but to meet with a letter from you.

I have implored St. Swithen in your behalf; but
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he either not hears me, or, to pay you a greater compliment, weeps plentifully for your absence. I fear you have had a terrible journey; for scarce a day has passed that he has not shed many tears.



L E T T E R XLVII.

From a tradesman to a correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of money.

S I R,

A Very unexpected demand that has been made on me for money, which I was in hopes of keeping longer in my trade, obliges me to apply for your assistance of the balance of the account between us, or as much of it as you can spare. When I have an opportunity to inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it, you will readily excuse the freedom I now take with you; and as it is an affair of such consequence to my family, I know the friendship you bear me will induce you to serve me effectually.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

TIMOTHY JONES.



L E T T E R XLVIII.

The answer.

S I R,

IT gives me singular satisfaction, that I have it in my power to answer your demand, and am able to serve a man I so much esteem. The balance of the account is two hundred pounds; for half of which I have procured a bank-note, and for security divided it, and sent one half by the carrier, as you desired, and have here inclosed the other. I wish you may surmount this and every other difficulty that lies in the road to happiness; and am,

Sir, Yours, &c. R. TOMPKINS.

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L E T -

L E T T E R XLIX.

To a lady, inviting her into the country for the summer.

My dear Harriot,

I Do not know whether I flatter myself with an opinion of your speaking to me the other day with an uncommon air of friendship, or whether I am so happy to hold that place, of which I should be so ambitious, in your esteem. I thought you spoke with concern at our parting for the summer, on our family's retiring into the country. For heaven's sake, my dear, what can you do all the dull season in London?—Vauxhall is not for more than twice; and I think Ranelagh one would not see above half a dozen times in the year. What is it then you find to entertain you in an empty town for four or five months together? I would fain persuade you not to be in love with so disagreeable a place, and I have an interest in it; for I am a petitioner to you to stay this summer with us, at least I beg you will try. We go, my dear, on Monday: Will you go with us? for there is a place in the coach; or will you come when we are settled? I am greatly of opinion that it will please you. I am sure I need not tell you we shall do all we can to render it agreeable, or that you will make us very happy in complying with the invitation.

You have not seen our house; but it is a very pleasant one. There are fine prospects from the park, and a river runs through the garden; nor are we quite out of the way of entertainment. You know there is a great deal of company about the place; and we have an assembly within a mile of us. What shall I say else to tempt you to come? Why, I will tell you, that you will make us all the happiest people in the world; and that when you are tired, you shall not be teased to stay. Dear Harriot, think of it; you will confer an obligation on her, who is, with the truest respect,

Your affectionate friend.

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L E T T E R L.

To a lady, inviting her to a party of pleasure.

Dear Madam,

People are interested who invite you to be of their parties, because you are sure to make them happy. This is the reason why you will not perhaps always comply when you are asked to be of them; but it is certainly a cause of your being solicited oftener than any woman in the world. After you was gone yesterday, Mr. Bohun proposed an expedition to Richmond for to-morrow; and he requested me (for he thought he had no title to such a liberty himself) to tell you that we all understood you to be of the party, though you happened to be out of the way when it was proposed.

I hope you are not engaged; the weather promises to be favourable, and your company you know how we value. I need not tell you, that we shall suppose it matter of form if you are absent: what we shall think of it if you go with us, you will know when you remember what every body thinks who has the pleasure of your company. I beg you will not invent an excuse, but let us depend on you.

I am, with the greatest sincerity, dear Madam,
Your most obedient humble servant.



L E T T E R LI.

To an acquaintance, to borrow a sum of money.

Dear Sir,

If you have fifty guineas, which you can, without any inconveniency, spare for about six months, I shall be greatly obliged to you to lend them to me for so long time.

I have been disappointed, and pressed for money at the same time. It is an unlucky, but not an un-

common circumstance. You will believe me, that I would not ask this of you, if I were not certain to give it to you back : but if it be the least inconvenience to spare the money at all, or to be so long without it, pray refuse me. I am, dear Sir,

Yours with the greatest sincerity.



L E T T E R L I I .

*From a young person in trade to a wholesale dealer,
who had suddenly made a demand on him.*

S I R,

YOUR demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit in this article used to be only four months ; but as it has been a custom to allow a moderate time beyond this, and as this is only the day of the old time, I had not yet prepared myself. Sir, I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency more than for the present, that occasions my desiring a little time of you ; and I shall not ask any more than is usual among the trade. If you will be pleased to let your servant call for one half of the sum this day three weeks, and the remainder a fortnight afterwards, it shall be ready. However, in the mean time, I beg of you not to let any word slip of this, because a very little hurts a young beginner. Sir, you may take my word with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have mentioned ; and if you have any particular cause for insisting on it sooner, be pleased to let me know that I must pay it, and I will endeavour to borrow the money ; for if I want credit with you, I cannot suppose that I have lost it with all the world, not knowing what it is that can have given you these distrustful thoughts concerning

Your humble servant.

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L E T T E R LIII.

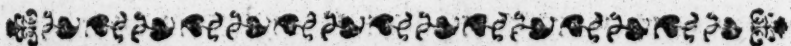
The wholesale-dealer's answer.

S I R,

I Am very sorry to press you; but if I had not reason, I should not have called upon you. It is not out of any disrespect to you that I have made the demand, but we have so many losses that it is fit we should take care. However, there is so much seeming frankness and sincerity in your letter, that I shall desire leave first to ask you, whether you have any dealings with an usurer in Bread-street, and, if you please, what is his name? Until you have given me the satisfaction on this head, I shall not any farther urge the demand I have made upon you; but, as this may be done at once, I desire your answer by the bearer, whom you well know; for he was, as he informs me, very lately your servant.

I assure you, Sir, it is in consideration of the great opinion I have for your honour, that I refer the demand I have made to this question; for it is not customary, and is supposed not to be fair or prudent, to mention our reasons on these occasions. If this is cleared up to me, Sir, as I wish, but I fear it cannot be, I shall make no scruple of the time you mention. I beg your answer without delay, and am sincerely,

Your friend and wellwisher.



L E T T E R LIV.

From a young person just out of his apprenticeship, to a relation, requesting him to lend him a sum of money.

I Can remember nothing but kindness from you to our unhappy family ever since my infancy; and I flatter myself, that I have not been guilty of any thing that ought to exclude me in particular from your favour, provided you retain the same kind

thoughts towards me. I may be mistaken in what I imagine further, that I have always thought you had no small hand in putting me out ; for I think my father could not have commanded such a sum of money, without the assistance of some generous friend, and I can think of none but you. If this be the case, Sir, I may be the more ashamed to write to you upon the present occasion, since it is ingratitude to make one benefit the cause of asking others. But I will venture to say in my own favour, that I think my behaviour in the time I have been with my master, will not make against me in the application. If I ask what to you shall seem improper, all that I farther request is, to be pardoned.

Sir, I have at present before me the prospect of being a journeymen for a small salary, and just getting bread, and that of being a master in one of the most advantageous trades that can be thought of: and this is the time of fixing myself in one situation or the other. I am sensible, Sir, you will see the design of this letter, because the becoming a master cannot be done without money, and I have no where to apply for such an assistance but to your favour. A moderate sum, Sir, will answer the purpose ; and I think I am so well acquainted with the trade, as to be able soon to repay it ; at least, I am sure I can take care that the value of it shall be always kept in stock, so that there can be no risk to lose any part of it. I have made the computation, and with 100 l. carefully laid out, I can make all the shew that is necessary, and have all conveniences about me. If you will be so generous, Sir, to complete the goodness you have already begun, by lending me this sum, there is nothing shall tempt me to endanger your losing any part of it ; nor shall any thing ever make me forget the obligation.

I am, Sir, your most obliged, and
most obedient humble servant.

L. E. T.

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L E T T E R L V.

To a mother, to thank her for her care and tenderness.

Honoured Madam,

I Have written twice to my brother, and not doubting but that he would inform you of my being well, I have taken the liberty to omit writing to you. I beg you will be pleased to hear the reasons that weighed with me against a very earnest inclination, that, whether you tell I was right or not, you may acquit me of the charge of disobedience, or want of respect as well as gratitude.

The pain with which I saw you parted from me on the road, has made an impression on my heart which time will never wear out ; and I hope, as it will always keep in my remembrance your tenderness as well as care for me, that beside the natural right all your commands have to obedience from me, I shall, on another principle, avoid every thing that is wrong, lest it should give you disquiet.

I should be unnatural and unpardonable, not to have the most sincere regard for the peace of your mind, and for its composure. God prevent that I should do any thing that should affect the first, and I shall hope my true concern will guard me against every thing that might disturb the latter. Indeed, Madam, the care of this prevented my writing ; I feared that a letter from me, be the contents ever so indifferent, might recal my remembrance too fully before you, and that the same pain might attend it, as did your parting with me. This was the only reason of my not writing before ; and in the most sincere truth, I have done violence to myself in omitting that testimony of my duty and respect.

As to occasions of writing, I have yet none, more than to tell you that I do not forget to whom I owe my attention ; and to say how great an happiness it will be to me to receive your farther thoughts as to things that are about me. I have yet entered into

no acquaintance with them, being determined, so far as my youth and scanty judgment may allow of it, to consider them before I mix myself among them : for this purpose I have hitherto kept within the house, where partly from the conversation of my relations, and partly from that of other persons of their acquaintance who visit them, and some of whom are persons of very respectable talents, I settle in myself some character of the several persons I am likely to meet with, and of the occurrences which may fall in my way ; but of all this, having not yet established within myself any firm opinion, I shall take the freedom to write to you.

The greatest subjects of my consideration, Madam, are the instructions and the cautions you gave me ; these will never be out of my remembrance ; and although perhaps the tenderness of the parent, or the fears of the mother, may have represented some of these in stronger lights than they are ordinarily seen, yet when I compare them with the observations I have yet had opportunities of making, I find them almost perfectly just, and all very necessary.

No person, I am sure, ever had the happiness of a more affectionate mother ; and I am fully persuaded, that the great experience you have had of the world will render you, more than most people, able to judge of the course of things. I think it a great happiness that so excellent an adviser is so much concerned in my welfare ; and I do promise you, Madam, in the most sincere manner, that I will always prefer to all other considerations in the world, the admonitions which you shall be pleased to give me. I shall also look upon myself as accountable for the least articles of my conduct to you, as well as to God and my own heart ; and it will scarce be a greater obligation upon me to do in every thing as I ought ; that the eye of that all-seeing Judge is upon me, than that any wrong step in my behaviour will, besides throwing myself into difficulties, make you unhappy.

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You cannot know, Madam, how much, and how gratefully I think of your care in placing me where I now am; where, under the eye of a good and prudent person, I have an opportunity to consider of my future conduct, and to see things before I am placed among them, and to consider this great world before I may be said to make a part of it. I see it as a terrible as well as a profitable scene of action: I have already set down many things which I shall avoid like death, and which I should else, perhaps, have fallen into heedlessly: I hope my future experience will show me many more. Indeed, on the little that I see at present, I cannot wonder that of the youths, who, at my unthinking and rash time of life, are let loose into that danger, and never consider it till they are in the midst of it, if they ever consider it at all, the greater part are ruined. I hope I shall profit even by their misfortunes; but whatsoever advantages I have over the rest of the young men I meet withal, I shall always remember with a due gratitude, that I owe them to you.

I pray daily that you may continue in all respects happy. You will let my brother know, Madam, that I shall endeavour to think of all things as he would have me. He has taught me to write long letters; but if it be not tedious to you, I cannot think the time it has taken me could be more worthily employed; nor can I account that a trouble, which, besides that it is a duty and a satisfaction to myself, will give you pleasure. I am, Honoured Madam,

With all duty and affection,

Your obedient son.

L E T T E R LVI.

From a mother to her son, in answer to the former.

Dear Child,

I Have this moment read your letter, and I am set down to write to you. Where corresponding is

You

a trouble, people may defer it to the latest hour; but why should I deny myself a moment the pleasure of conversing with you? My dear, continue in the thoughts you have at present, and you will add all that can be now thrown into the portion of my happiness. I interrupt myself by casting my eye over and over upon your letter, and the fulness of my heart prevents my informing you of its sensations. If you should see more blots than this, which is just now made in my writing, do not wonder, or be uneasy. I will not dissemble to you that they are made by tears; but, dearest son, these are tears that flow from transport, which has no other expression. Sure no mother was ever happier in her children. Your brother is esteemed, nay, he is almost adored by every body: your sister is settled to an advantage that was beyond my utmost expectations; and yet she is so good a woman, that her husband thinks himself under everlasting obligations. You, my dear Jack, were my only care; and I had more fear for you than all; as the youngest child, that is, as the latest remembrance of your honoured father, you had a larger share of my tenderness than either, and you was destined to a scene of the greatest danger. Heaven alone can tell what hath been my anxieties and fears about you, and how continual my prayers for your security. They are all granted; and instead of being, as I feared you would, an occasion of continual alarm to me, you are adding more than any of them to my contentment. I know your good heart, and I can see what a joy it is to you to perceive you make me happy: in such a mind as yours, there can be wanting no other motive to be good beside the excellence of virtue; but I am sure, that if this were not sufficient, the very thought that your mother's peace depended upon your conduct, would keep you in the way of goodness.

My dear child, regard your brother: no person is so able to advise you, and he loves you with more
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than the common affection of the relation ; he admires your good sense, and he esteems your principles. Dear son, think what an honour it is to have the esteem of so excellent a man ; think what a happiness it is to have so fine a character at so tender an age as your's ; and as you shew me how much my satisfaction is an object of your concern, remember what a transport it must be to me to hear of you so favourably.

I shall not repeat to you, my dear, the cautions which I gave you, for I see you will not need to be put again in remembrance : only reverence truth, be acquainted with no one till you know that he deserves it, and avoid bad women.

If it can give you satisfaction, and I am sure it will do so, to hear that every thought of your heart has my perfect approbation, you hear it truly ; but although there is not any the least part of your conduct that does not give me pleasure, there is, altho' you will be surpris'd to hear it, something in your brother's, with respect to you, that gives me pain. He told me of your asking his advice upon an inconsiderable subject, and his giving it to you rather honestly than elegantly. Dear child, take care of your heart, and you may be less uneasy about your expression : let your thoughts be good, and never be uneasy about the words you put them in. The books recommended to you may be good for nothing, but you have no occasion for any ; nor is it a pin-matter in the affairs of life, whether you put every word where it should be. But this is all a trifle, nor shall I pretend to enter into the matter ; if it be worth any consideration, he is the best judge, so pray mind him ; but what I speak of is the manner in which he says he wrote of your cousin.

My dear, always respect your elders, and do not let any little school-boy's lesson put you above them in your own opinion, because they have forgotten it :

nor

nor because your cousin is a plain man, do you suppose he is less capable to advise you. He is a person of undoubted probity and uprightness of heart, and that is worth all the Greek and Latin of Westminster and Eton : he has made his way to a plentiful fortune, and he has the respect and esteem of all that he ever was concerned with. Would you wish for a better character or better fortune ! God send you may conduct yourself through the world just as he has done : I, that would weary heaven with prayers for you, wish you nothing better. I do not pretend to say your brother is wrong in his judgement about this matter, for I do not understand the nature of it ; all that I know is, you will never write a letter that will please me more than this you have sent already ; and I think, had I been in his place, I would not have put any thing into your mind upon an occasion of such little consequence, that should have abated your regard for a person whose advice will be of service to you. But I know you will not do so. Preserve, I desire you, that respect for him which his years, and his integrity, and his success in the world require : and whatsoever you may think about this trifle, do not let it lessen your esteem for one whom your mother recommends to you.

My dear, I have said the more upon this subject, because it seems the only one in which you are in danger to err ; and I have thought it the more necessary to say so, because the regard I desired you to pay to your brother, might have rendered it a kind of duty to go into his error : I have spoke to him about it, and he desires me to say that he is perfectly of my opinion.

Farewell, my dearest boy ; you have a very easy task before you ; seeing you are already so good, that you need only go on in the same path, to make all that love you happy.

Your affectionate mother.

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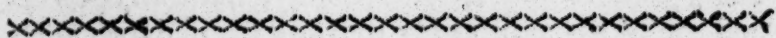
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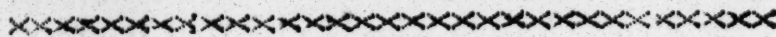


THE COMPLETE
LETTER-WRITER.



P A R T II.

LETTERS of Courtship and Marriage.



L E T T E R I.

From a young person in business, to a gentleman, desiring leave to wait on his daughter.

S I R,

I Hope the justness of my intentions will excuse the freedom of this letter, whereby I am to acquaint you of the affection and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, Sir, offer at any indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honourable views to her; chusing, by your influence, if I may approve myself to you worthy of that honour, to commend myself to her approbation. You are not insensible, Sir, by the credit I have hitherto preserved in the world, of my ability, by God's blessing, to make her happy; and this the rather emboldens me to request the favour of an evening's conversation with you, at your first convenience, when I will more fully explain myself, as I earnestly hope, to your satisfaction, and take my encouragement, or discouragement, from your own mouth. I am, Sir, in the mean time, with great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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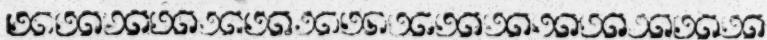
L E T T E R II.

From a young lady to her father, acquainting him with a proposal of marriage made to her.

Honoured Sir,

AS young Mr. Lovewell, whose father, I am sensible, is one of your intimate acquaintance, has, during your absence in the country, made an open declaration of his passion for me, and pressed me closely to comply with his overtures of marriage, I thought it my duty to decline all offers of that nature, however advantageous they might seem to be, till I had your thoughts on so important an affair, and I am absolutely determined either to discourage his addresses, or keep him at least in suspense, till your return, as I shall be directed by your superior judgment. I beg leave, however with due submission, to acquaint you of the idea I have entertained of him, and hope I am not too blind, or partial in his favour. He seems to me to be perfectly honourable in his intentions, and to be no wise inferior to any gentleman of my acquaintance hitherto, in regard to good sense or good manners.—I frankly own, Sir, I could admit of his addresses with pleasure, were they attended with your consent and approbation. Be assured, however, that I am not so far engaged, as to act with precipitation, or comply with any offers inconsistent with that filial duty, which, in gratitude to your paternal indulgence, I shall ever owe you. Your speedy instruction, therefore, in so momentous an article, will prove the greatest satisfaction imaginable to,

Honoured Sir, your most dutiful daughter.



L E T T E R III.

From a daughter to her mother upon the same occasion.

Honoured Madam,

SOon after I left you and my friends in the country, I happily engaged with one Mrs. Prudence, a governess

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governess of a noted young ladies boarding school at the court end of the town, to act as her assistant. She has treated me, ever since I have been with her, with the utmost good-nature and condescension, and has all along endeavoured to make my service more easy and advantageous to me than I could reasonably expect. On the other hand, as a grateful acknowledgment of her favours, I have made her interest my whole study and delight. My courteous deportment towards the young ladies, and my constant care to oblige my governess, have not only gained me the love and esteem of the whole house, but young Mr. Byron, the dancing-master who attends our school weekly, has cast a favourable eye upon me some time, and has lately made me such overtures of marriage, as are, in my own opinion, worthy of my attention. However, notwithstanding he is a great favourite of Mrs. Prudence, a man of unblemished character, and very extensive business, I thought it would be an act of the highest ingratitude, to so indulgent a parent as you have been to me, to conceal from you an affair whereon my future happiness or misery must so greatly depend. As to his person, age, and temper, I must own, Madam; with a blush, that they are all perfectly agreeable; and I should think myself very happy, should you countenance his addresses. I flatter myself however, that I have so much command of my own passions, as in duty to be directed in so momentous an affair by your superior judgment. Your speedy answer therefore will be looked upon as an additional act of indulgence shewn to,

Your most dutiful daughter.



L E T T E R IV.

The mother's answer to the foregoing.

Dear Daughter,

I Received yours in regard to the overtures of marriage made you by Mr. Byron; and as that is a

very weighty affair, I shall return to London as soon as possible, in order to make all due inquiries. And in case I find no just grounds for exceptions to the man, I have none to his occupation; since it is suitable enough to that state of life for which you seem to have a peculiar taste. However, tho' I should rejoice to see you settled to your satisfaction and advantage, and tho' you seem to entertain a very favourable opinion of his honour, and abilities to maintain you in a very decent manner; yet I would have you weigh well the momentous matter in debate. Don't be too hasty, my dear; consider, all is not gold that glitters. Men are too often false and perfidious; promise fair, and yet, at the same time, aim at nothing more than the gratification of their unruly desires. I don't say that Mr. Byron has any such dishonourable intentions, and I hope he has not; for which reason I would only have you act with discretion and reserve; give him neither too great hopes of success, nor an absolute denial to put him in despair. All that you have to say till you see me is this, that you have no aversion to his person; but that you are determined to be wholly directed by your mother in an affair of so serious a concern. This will naturally induce him to make his application to me on my first arrival; and you may depend upon it, no care shall be wanting on my side to promote your future happiness and advantage. I am,

Dear daughter, your truly affectionate mother.



LETTER V.

A young lady's answer to a gentleman's letter, who professes an aversion to the tedious modes of courtship.

S I R,

I AM no more fond of the fashionable modes of courtship than yourself. Plain dealing, I own,

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is best; but methinks common decency should always be preserved.

There is something so peculiar and whimsical in your manner of expression, that I am absolutely at a loss to determine whether you are really serious, or only write for your own amusement. When you explain yourself in more intelligible terms, I shall be better able to form a judgment of your passion, and more capable of returning you a proper answer. What influence your future addresses may have over me, I cannot say; but to be free with you, your first attempt has made no impression on the heart of

M I R A.

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L E T T E R VI.

The lady's reply to another letter from the same gentleman, wherein he more explicitly avows his passion.

S I R,

Since neither of us, I perceive, is over-fond of squandering our time away in idle, unmeaning compliments, I think proper to inform you, in direct terms, that the disposal of my person is not altogether in my own power; and that notwithstanding my father and mother are both deceased, yet I transact no single affair of any moment, without consulting Sir Orlando Wiseman, of Lincoln's inn, who is my counsel upon all occasions, and is a gentleman, as I conceive, of the strictest honour and honesty, and one on whose judgement I can safely rely. I will be so fair and just to you, as freely to acknowledge, that I have no objection to your person. If therefore you think proper to wait on him with your proposals, and I find that he approves them, I shall act without any mental reservation, and be very apt to encourage a passion that I imagine to be both honourable and sincere. I am,

Sir, your humble servant,

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LETTER VII.

From an aunt to her nephew, who had complained of ill success in his addresses.

Dear Nephew,

I Received your doleful ditty, in regard to your ill success in your late love-adventure with Miss Snow. No marble monument was ever half so cold, or vestal virgin half so coy! she turns a deaf ear, it seems to your most ardent vows! And what of all that? By your own account it appears, she has given you no flat denial; neither has she peremptorily forbid your visits. Really, nephew, I thought a young gentleman of your good sense and penetration, should be better versed in the arts of love, than to be cast down all at once, and quit the field upon the first repulse. You should consider, that she is not only a beauty, but a very accomplished lady. You must surely be very vain to imagine, that one of her education, good sense, and real merit, should fall an easy victim into your arms. Her affections must be gradually engaged; she looks upon matrimony as a very serious affair, and will never give way, I am fully persuaded, to the violence of an ill-grounded passion. For shame, nephew, shake off that unbecoming bashfulness, and shew yourself a man. Lovers, like soldiers, should endure fatigues. Be advised: Renew the attack with double vigour; for she is a lady worth your conquest. The revolution of a day (as the ingenious Mr. Rowe has it) may bring such turns as heaven itself could scarce have promised. Cheer up, dear nephew, under that thought. When I hear from you again, a few weeks hence, I am not without hopes, if you will follow my advice, of your carrying the siege, and making her comply with your own terms of accommodation. In the mean time, depend upon it, no stone shall be left unturned on my part, that may any

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any wise contribute towards your good success, as I cannot, without injustice to the lady, but approve your choice. I am your affectionate aunt.



L E T T E R VIII.

From a daughter to her father, wherein she dutifully expostulates against a match he had proposed to her, with a gentleman much older than herself.

Honoured Sir,

THOUGH your injunctions should prove diametrically opposite to my own secret inclinations, yet I am not insensible, that the duty which I owe you binds me to comply with them. Besides, I should be very ungrateful, should I presume, in any point whatever, considering your numberless acts of parental indulgence towards me, to contest your will and pleasure. Though the consequences thereof should prove never so fatal, I am determined to be all obedience, in case what I have to offer in my own defence should have no influence over you, or be thought an insufficient plea for my aversion to a match, which, unhappily for me, you seem to approve of. It is very possible, Sir, the gentleman you recommend to my choice, may be possessed of all that substance, and all those good qualities, that bias you so strongly in his favour; but be not angry dear Sir, when I remind you, that there is a vast disproportion in our years. A lady, of more experience, and of a more advanced age, would, in my humble opinion, be a much fitter help-mate for him. To be ingenuous, (permit me, good Sir, to speak the sentiments of my heart without reserve for once), a man, almost in his grand climacteric, can never be an agreeable companion for me; nor can the natural gaiety of my temper, which has hitherto been indulged by yourself in every innocent amusement,

amusement, be over-agreeable to him. Though his fondness at first may connive at the little freedoms I shall be apt to take; yet as soon as the edge of his appetite shall be abated, he'll grow jealous, and for ever torment me without a cause. I shall be debarred of every diversion suitable to my years, though never so harmless and inoffensive; permitted to see no company; hurried down perhaps to some melancholy rural recess; and there, like my lady Grace in the play, sit pensive and alone, under a green tree. Your long experienced goodness, and that tender regard which you have always expressed for my ease and satisfaction, encourage me thus freely to expostulate with you on an affair of so great importance. If however, after all, you shall judge the inequality of our age an insufficient plea in my favour, and that want of affection for a husband is but a trifle, where there is a large fortune and a coach and six to throw into the scale; if, in short, you shall lay your peremptory commands upon me to resign up all my real happiness and peace of mind, for the vanity of living in pomp and grandeur, I am ready to submit to your superior judgment. Give me leave, however, to observe, that it is impossible for me ever to love the man into whose arms I am to be thrown: and that my compliance with so detested a proposition, is nothing more than the result of the most inviolable duty to a father, who never made the least attempt before to thwart the inclinations of

His ever obedient daughter.

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L E T T E R IX.

From a young lady to a gentleman that courted her, whom she could not like, but was forced by her parents to receive his visits, and think of none else for her husband.

S I R,

IT is a very ill return which I make to the respect you have for me, when I acknowledge to you, that

that

that though the day of our marriage is appointed, I am incapable of loving you. You may have observed, in the long conversations we have had at those times that we were left together, that some secret hung upon my mind. I was obliged to an ambiguous behaviour, and durst not reveal myself further, because my mother, from a closet near the place where we sat, could both hear and see our conversation. I have strict commands from both my parents to receive you, and am undone for ever, except you will be so kind and generous as to refuse me. Consider, Sir, the misery of bestowing yourself upon one who can have no prospect of happiness but from your death. This is a confession made perhaps with an offensive sincerity; but that conduct is much to be preferred to a secret dislike, which could not but pall all the sweets of life, by imposing on you a companion that dotes and languishes for another. I will not go so far as to say my passion for the gentleman, whose wife I am by promise, would lead me to any thing criminal against your honour. I know it is dreadful enough to a man of your sense to expect nothing but forced civilities in return for tender endearments, and cold esteem for undeserved love. If you will on this occasion let reason take place of passion, I doubt not but fate has in store for you some worthier object of your affection, in recompence of your goodness to the only woman that could be insensible of your merit. I am,

Sir, your most humble servant, M. H.

LETTER X.

From a young lady to a gentleman who courts her, and whom she suspects of infidelity.

S I R,

THE freedom and sincerity with which I have at all times laid open my heart to you, ought to have

have some weight in my claim to a return of the same confidence: but I have reason to fear that the best of men do not always act as they ought. I write to you what it would be impossible to speak: but, before I see you, I desire you will either explain your conduct last night, or confess that you have used me not as I have deserved of you.

It is in vain to deny that you took pains to recommend yourself to Miss Peacock; your earnestness of discourse also shewed me that you were no stranger to her. I desire to know, Sir, what sort of acquaintance you can wish to have with another person of character, after making me believe that you wished to be married to me. I write very plainly to you, because I expect a plain answer. I am not apt to be suspicious, but this was too particular; and I must be either blind or indifferent to overlook it. Sir, I am neither; though perhaps it would be better for me if I were one or the other. I am, yours, &c.



LETTER XI.

From a gentleman engaged to a lady, who had been seen talking to another, in answer to the foregoing.

My dearest Jenny,

WHat can have put it into your thoughts to be suspicious of me, whose heart and soul you know are truly yours, and whose whole thoughts and wishes are but on you? Sweet quarreller, you know this. What afternoon have I spent from you? Or whom did you ever see me speak to without distaste, when it prevented my talking with you?

You know how often you have cautioned me not to speak to you before your uncle; and you know he was there. But you do well to abuse me for being too obedient to your commands; for, I promise you, you shall never get any other cause. I thought

thought it most prudent to be seen talking with another, when it was my business not so much as to look at you. Miss Peacock is a very old acquaintance: she knows my perfect devotion to you, and she very well knew all that civility and earnestness of discourse about nothing, was pretended. I write to you before I come, because you commanded me; but I will make you ask my pardon in a few minutes for robbing me of those few, which might have been passed with you, and which it has taken to write this letter. My sweetest quarreller, I am coming to you. After this never doubt but that I am,

Yours most truly.



LETTER XII.

From a gentleman to a lady, whom he accuses of inconstancy.

Madam,

YOU must not be surpris'd of a letter in the place of a visit, from one who cannot but have reason to believe it may easily be as welcome as his company.

You should not suppose, if lovers have lost their sight, that their senses are all banished: and if I refuse to believe my eyes, when they shew me your inconstancy, you must not wonder that I cannot stop my ears against the accounts of it. Pray let us understand one another properly; for I am afraid we are deceiving ourselves all this while. Am I a person whom you esteem, whose fortune you do not despise, and whose pretensions you encourage; or am I a troublesome coxcomb, who fancies myself particularly received by a woman who only laughs at me? If I am the latter, you treat me as I deserve; and I ought to join with you in saying I deserve it: but if it be otherwise, and you receive me, as I think you do, as a person you intend to marry, for it is best

best to be plain on these occasions, for heaven's sake what is the meaning of that universal coquetry in public, where every fool flatters you, and you are pleased with the meanest of them? And what can be the meaning that I am told, you last night in particular was an hour with Mr. Marlow, and are so wherever you meet him, if I am not in company? Both of us, Madam, you cannot think of; and I should be sorry to imagine, that when I had given you my heart so entirely, I shared yours with any body.

I have said a great deal too much to you, and yet I am tempted to say more: but I shall be silent. I beg you will answer this, and I think I have a right to expect that you do it generously and fairly. Do not mistake what is the effect of the distraction of my heart, for want of respect to you. While I write this, I dote upon you, but I cannot bear to be deceived where all my happiness is centered.

Your most unhappy,

LETTER XIII.

From a lady to her lover, who suspected her of receiving the addresses of another. In answer to the above.

S I R,

IF I did not make all the allowances you desire in the end of your letter, I should not answer you at all. But although I am really unhappy to find you are so, and the more to find myself to be the occasion, I can hardly impute the unkindness and incivility of your letter to the single cause you would have me. However, as I would not be suspected of any thing that should justify such treatment from you, I think it necessary to inform you, that what you have heard has no more foundation than what you have seen: However, I wonder that other eyes should not be as easily alarmed as yours; for, in-

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stead of being blind, believe me, Sir, you see more than there is. Perhaps, however, their sight may be as much sharpened by unprovoked malice, as yours by undeserved suspicion.

Whatever may be the end of this dispute, for I do not think so lightly of lovers quarrels as many do, I think it proper to inform you, that I never have thought favourably of any one but yourself; and I shall add, that if the fault of your temper, which I once little suspected, should make me fear you too much to marry, you will not see me in that state with any other; nor courted by any man in the world.

I did not know that the gaiety of my temper gave you uneasiness; and you ought to have told me of it with less severity. If I am particular in it, I am afraid it is a fault of my natural disposition; but I would have taken some pains to get the better of that, if I had known it was disagreeable to you. I ought to resent this treatment more than I do, but do not insult my weakness on that head; for a fault of that kind would want the excuse this has for my pardon, and might not be so easily overlooked, tho' I should wish to do it. I should say, I will not see you to day, but you have an advocate that pleads for you much better than you do for yourself. I desire you will first look carefully over this letter, for my whole heart is in it, and then come to me.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XIV.

From a young tradesman to a lady he had seen in public

Madam,

PERhaps you will not be surpris'd to receive a letter from a person who is unknown to you, when you reflect how likely so charming a face may be to create impertinence; and I persuade myself, that when you remember where you sat last night at the

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play-house, you will not need to be told this comes from the person who was just before you.

In the first place, Madam, I ask pardon for the liberty I then took of looking at you, and for the greater liberty I now take in writing to you. But, after this, I beg leave to say that my thoughts are honourable, and to inform you who I am: I shall not pretend to be any better. I keep a shop, Madam, in Henrietta-street; and though but two years in trade, I have a tolerable custom. I do not doubt but it will increase, and I shall be able to do something for a family. If your inclinations are not engaged, I should be very proud of the honour of waiting on you; and, in the mean time, if you please to desire any friend to ask my character in the neighbourhood, I believe it will not prejudice you against, Madam, your most humble servant.



LETTER XV.

From a relation of the lady, in answer to the above.

S I R,

There has come into my hands a letter which you wrote to Miss Maria Stebbing. She is a relation of mine, and is a very good girl; and I dare say you will not think the worse of her for consulting her friends in such an affair as that you wrote about: Besides, a woman could not well answer such a letter herself, unless it was with a full refusal, and that she would have been wrong to have done, until she knew something of the person that wrote it, as wrong as to have encouraged him.

You seem very sincere and open in your designs; and as you gave permission to inquire about you among your neighbours, I being her nearest friend, did that for her. I have heard a very good account of you; and from all that I see, you may be very suitable for one another. She has some fortune; and

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and I shall tell you farther, that she took notice of you at the play, and does not seem perfectly averse to seeing you in the presence of

Your humble servant. A. H.



L E T T E R X V I.

From a lover who had cause of displeasure, and determines never to see the lady again.

Madam,

There was a time when if any one should have told me that I should ever have written to you such a letter as I am now writing, I would as soon have believed that the earth would have burst asunder, or that I should see stars falling to the ground, or trees and mountains rising to the heavens. But there is nothing too strange to happen. One thing would have appeared yet more impossible than my writing it, which is, that you should have given me the cause to have written it, and yet that has happened.

The purpose of this is to tell you, Madam, that I shall never wait on you again. You will truly know what I make myself suffer when I impose this command upon my own heart; but I would not tell you of it, if it were not too much determined for me to have a possibility of changing my resolution.

It gives me some pleasure, that you will feel no uneasiness for this, though I should also have been very averse some time ago even to have imagined that; but you know where to employ that attention, of which I am not worthy the whole, and with a part I shall not be contented. I was a witness, Madam, yesterday of your behaviour to Mr. Henly. I had been often told of this, but I have refused to listen to it. I supposed your heart no more capable of deceit than my own: But I cannot disbelieve what I have been told on such authority, when my own eyes

confirm it. Madam, I take my leave of you, and
beg you will forget there ever was such a man as

Your humble servant.

LETTER XVII.

*From a young lady to her father, acquainting him with
the addresses of a young tradesman.*

Honoured Sir,

I Think it my duty to acquaint you, that a gentleman of this town, by name Wills, and business a linen draper, has made some overtures to my cousin Harcourt, in the way of courtship to me. My cousin has brought him once or twice into my company, which he could not well decline doing, because he has dealings with him, and has a high opinion of him and his circumstances. He has been set up three years, has very good business, and lives in credit and fashion. He is about twenty-seven years old, a likely man enough, seems not to want sense or manners, and is come of a good family. He has broke his mind to me, and boasts how well he can maintain me. Though I assure you, Sir, I have given him no encouragement; but told him that I had no thoughts of changing my condition yet a while; and should never think of it but in obedience to my parents; therefore desired him to talk no more on that subject to me: yet he resolves to persevere, and pretends extraordinary affection and esteem. I would not, Sir, by any means omit to acquaint you with the beginning of an affair which it would be want of duty in me to conceal from you, and shew a guilt and disobedience unworthy of the kind indulgence and affection you have always shewn to, Sir,

Your most dutiful daughter.

My humble duty to my honoured mother; love to my brother and sister; and respects to all friends. Cousin Harcourt, and his wife and sister, desire their kind respects. I cannot write enough of their civility to me.

Her father

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L E T T E R XVIII.

Her father's answer, on a supposition that he does not approve of the young man's addressee.

Dear Polly,

I Have received your letter, dated the 4th inst. wherein you acquaint me of the proposals made to you, through your cousin Harcourt's recommendation, by one Mr. Wills. I hope, as you assure me, that you have given no encouragement to him; for I by no means approve of him for your husband. I have inquired of one of his townsmen, who knows him and his circumstances very well, and I am neither pleased with them, nor with his character; and wonder my cousin would so inconsiderately recommend him to you. Indeed I doubt not of Mr. Harcourt's good intentions; but I insist upon it, that you think nothing of the matter, if you would oblige

Your indulgent father.

Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins with me in the above advice. Your brother and sister, and all friends, send their love and respects to you.



L E T T E R XIX.

The father's answer, on a supposition that he does approve of the young man's addressee.

My dear daughter,

I N answer to yours of the 4th instant, relating to the addressee of Mr. Wills, I would have you neither wholly encourage nor discourage his suit; for if, on inquiry into his character and circumstances, I shall find that they are answerable to your cousin's good opinion of them, and his own assurances, I know not but his suit may be worthy of attention. But, my dear, consider that men are deceitful, and always

put the best side outwards ; and it may possibly, on the strict inquiry, which the nature and importance of the case demands, come out far otherwise than it at present appears. Let me advise you, therefore, to act in this matter with great prudence, and that you make not yourself too cheap ; for men are apt to slight what is too easily obtained. Your cousin will give him hope enough, while you don't absolutely deny him ; And in the mean time he may be told, that you are not at your own disposal, but entirely resolved to abide by my determination and direction, in an affair of this great importance ; and this will put him upon applying to me, who, you need not doubt, will in this case, as in all others, study your good, as becomes

Your indulgent father,
Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins with me in the above advice. Your brother and sister, and all friends, send their love and respects to you.

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L E T T E R XX.

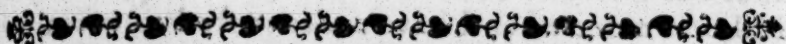
A modest lover desiring an aunt's favour to him for her niece.

Good Madam,

I Have several times, when I have been happy in the company of your good niece, thought to have spoken my mind, and to declare to her the true value and affection I have for her : But just as I have been about to speak, my fears have vanquished my hopes, and I have been obliged to suspend my design. I have thrown out several hints, that I thought would have led the way to a fuller disclosing of the secret that is too big for my breast ; and yet, when I am near her, it is too important for utterance. Will you be so good, Madam, to break the way for me, if I am not wholly disapproved of by you, and prepare her dear mind for a declaration that I must make, and yet I know not how to begin.—My fortune
and

and expectations make me hope that I may not on those accounts be deemed unworthy. And could I, by half a line from your hand, hope that there is no other bar, I should be enabled to build on so desirable a foundation, and to let your niece know how much my happiness depends upon her favour. Excuse, good Madam, I beseech you, this trouble, and this presumptuous request, from

Your obliged humble servant.



L E T T E R XXI.

The aunt's answer, supposing the gentleman deserves encouragement.

S I R,

I Cannot say, I have any dislike, as to my own part, to your proposal, or your manner of making it, whatever my niece may have; because diffidence is generally the companion of merit, and a token of respect. She is a person of prudence, and all her friends are so thoroughly convinced of it, that her choice will have the weight it deserves with us all: So I cannot say, what will be the event of your declaration to her; yet so far as I may take upon myself to do, I will not deny your request; but on her return to-morrow will break the ice, as you desire, not doubting your honour, and the sincerity of your professions; and I shall tell her moreover what I think of the advances you make. I believe she has had the prudence to keep her heart entirely disengaged, because she would otherwise have told me; and is not so mean-spirited, as to be able to return tyranny and insult for true value, when she is properly convinced of it. Whoever has the happiness (permit me, though her relation, to call it so) to meet with her favour, will find this her character; and that it is not owing to the fond partiality of, Sir,

Your friend and servant.

LETTER XXII.

From a respectful lover to his mistress.

Dear Madam,

I Have long struggled with the most honourable and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man; I have often tried to reveal it personally, as often in this way; but never till now could prevail upon my fears and doubts. I can no longer struggle with a secret that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet hitherto more when I have endeavoured to reveal it. I never entertain the hope of seeing you without rapture; but when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated, as I ought, I am utterly confounded. What can this be owing to, but a diffidence in myself, and an exalted opinion of your worthiness? And is not this a strong token of ardent love? Yet if it be, how various is the tormenting passion in its operations? since some it inspires with courage, while others it deprives of all necessary confidence. I can only assure you, Madam, that the heart of man never conceived a stronger or sincerer passion than mine for you. If my reverence for you is my crime, I am sure it has been my sufficient punishment. I need not to say my designs and motives are honourable. Who dare approach so much virtuous excellence, with a supposition, that such an assurance is necessary? What my fortune is, is well known, and I am ready to stand the test of the strictest inquiry. Condescend, Madam, to embolden my respectful passion by one favourable line, that if what I here profess, and hope further to have an opportunity to assure you of, be found to be unquestionably true, then, I hope, my humble addresses will not quite be unacceptable to you; and thus you will for ever oblige, dear Madam,

Your affectionate admirer, and devoted servant.

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L E T T E R XXIII.

The answer.

S I R,

IF modesty be the greatest glory in our sex, surely it cannot be blameworthy in yours. For my own part, I must think it the most amiable quality either man or woman can possess. Nor can there be, in my opinion, a true respect where there is not a diffidence of one's own merit, and an high opinion of the person's we esteem.

To say more on this occasion, would little become me. To say less, would look as if I knew not how to pay that regard to modest merit, which modest merit only deserves.

You, Sir, best know your own heart; and if you are sincere and generous, will receive, as you ought, this frankness from, Sir, Your humble servant.



L E T T E R XXIV.

A gentleman to a lady, professing an aversion to the tedious formality in courtship.

Dear Madam,

Remember that one of the antients in describing a youth in love, says, he has neither wisdom enough to speak, nor to hold his tongue. If this be a just description, the sincerity of my passion will admit of no dispute: and whenever in your company I behave like a fool, forget not that you are answerable for my incapacity. Having made bold to declare this much, I must presume to say, that a favourable reception of this will, I am certain, make me more worthy of your notice; but your disdain would be what I believe myself incapable ever to surmount. To try by idle fallacies, and airy compliments, to prevail on your judgment, is a folly for any man to attempt.

attempt who knows you. No, Madam, your good sense and endowments have raised you far above the necessity of practising the mean artifices which prevail upon the less-deserving of your sex: you are not to be so lightly deceived; and, if you were, give me leave to say, I should not think you deserving of the trouble that would attend such an attempt.

This, I must own, is no fashionable letter from one who, I am sure, loves up to the greatest hero of romance: but as I would hope, that the happiness I sue for should be lasting, it is certainly most eligible to take no step to procure it but what will bear reflection; for I should be happy to see you mine, even when we have both outlived the taste of every thing that has not virtue and reason to support it. I am, Madam, notwithstanding this unpolished address,

Your most respectful admirer,
And obedient humble servant.

LETTER XXV.

The lady's answer, encouraging a further declaration.

S I R,

I AM very little in love with the fashionable methods of courtship: sincerity with me is preferable to compliments; yet I see no reason why common decency should be discarded. There is something so odd in your stile, that when I know whether you are in jest or earnest, I shall be less at a loss to answer you. Mean time as there is abundant room for rising, rather than sinking, in your complaisance, you may possibly have chosen wisely to begin first at the lower. If this be the case, I know not what your succeeding addresses may produce: But I tell you fairly, that your present make no great impression, yet perhaps as much as you intend, on

Your humble servant.

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The gentler

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L E T T E R XXVI.

The gentleman's reply, more openly declaring his passion

Dear Madam,

NOW I have the hope of being not more despised for my acknowledged affection, I declare to you with all the sincerity of a man of honour, that I have long had a most sincere passion for you ; but I have seen gentlemen led such dances, when they have given up their affections to the lovely tyrants of their hearts, and could not help themselves, that I had no courage to begin an address in the usual forms, even to you, of whose good sense and generosity I nevertheless had a good opinion. You have favoured me with a few lines, which I most kindly thank you for. And I do assure you, Madam, if you will be pleased to encourage my honourable suit, you shall have so just an account of my circumstances and pretensions, as I hope will entitle me to your favour in the honourable light in which I profess myself, dear Madam,

Your most obliged and faithful admirer.

Be so good as to favour me with one line more to encourage my personal attendance, if not disagreeable.

L E T T E R XXVII.

The lady's answer to his reply, putting the matter on a sudden issue.

S I R,

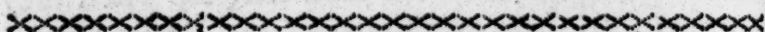
AS we are both so well inclined to avoid unnecessary trouble, as well as unnecessary compliments, I think proper to acquaint you that Mr. Dunford, of Winchester, has the management of all my affairs ; and is a man of such probity and honour, that I do nothing in any matters of consequence without

without him. I have no dislike to your person ; and if you approve of what Mr. Dunford can acquaint you with in relation to me, and I approve of his report in your favour, I shall be far from shewing any gentleman that I have either an insolent or a sordid spirit, especially to such as do me the honour of their good opinion.

Andover.

I am, Sir.

Your humble servant.



LETTER XXVIII.

A facetious young lady to her aunt, ridiculing her serious lover.

Dear Aunt,

I AM much obliged to you for the kindness you intended me, in recommending Mr. Richards to me for a husband. But I must be so free to tell you, he is a man no wise suited to my inclination. I despise, it is true, the idle rants of romance ; but I am inclinable to think there may be an extreme on the other side of the question.

The first time the honest man came to see me, in the way you was pleased to put into his head, was one Sunday after sermon time. He began with telling me, what I found at my finger-ends, that it was very cold ; and politely blowed upon his. I immediately perceived that his passion for me could not keep him warm ; and, in complaisance to your recommendation, conducted him to the fire-side. After he had pretty well rubbed heat into his hands, he stood up with his back to the fire, and, with his hands behind him, held up his coat, that he might be warm all over ; and looking about him, asked, with the tranquillity of a man a twelve month married, and just come off a journey, how all friends did in the country ? I said, I hoped very well ; but would be glad to warm my fingers. Cry mercy,

Madam!

Madam! — And then he shuffled a little further from the fire; and after two or three hems, and a long pause —

I have heard, says he, a most excellent sermon just now. Dr. Thomas is a fine man truly: Did you ever hear him, Madam? No, Sir, I generally go to my own parish-church. That is right, Madam, to be sure. What was your subject to day? The Pharisee and the Publican, Sir. A very good one truly: Dr. Thomas would have made fine work upon that subject. His text to day was, Evil communications corrupt good manners. A good subject, Sir; I doubt not but the doctor made a fine discourse upon it. O, ay, Madam, he cannot make a bad one upon any subject.

I rung for the tea-kettle; for, thought I, we shall have all the heads of the sermon immediately.

At tea he gave me an account of all the religious societies, unasked; and how many boys they had put out 'prentices, and girls they had taught to knit, and sing psalms. To all which I gave a nod of approbation, and was just able to say, (for I began to be most horribly in the vapours,) it was a very excellent charity. O, ay, Madam, said he again, for that is his word I find), a very excellent one truly; it is snatching so many brands out of the fire. You are a contributor, Sir, I doubt not. O, ay, Madam, to be sure; every good man would contribute to such a worthy charity to be sure. No doubt, Sir, a blessing attends upon all who promote so worthy a design. O, ay, Madam, no doubt, as you say: I am sure I have found it; blessed be God! and then he twang'd his nose, and lifted up his eyes, as if in an ejaculation.

O, my good aunt, what a man is here for a husband! At last came the happy moment of his taking leave; for I would not ask him to stay supper: and, moreover, he talked of going to a lecture at St. Helen's. And then (though I had an opportunity of

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faying

saying little more than Yes, and No, all the time; for he took the vapours he had put me into, for devotion or gravity; at least I believe so) he pressed my hand, looked frightfully kind, and gave me to understand, as a mark of his favour, that if, upon further conversation, and inquiry into my character, he should happen to like me as well as he did from my behaviour and person, why, truly, I need not fear in time, being blessed with him for my husband!

This, my good aunt, may be a mighty safe way of travelling towards the land of matrimony, as far as I know; but I cannot help wishing for a little more entertainment on our journey. I am willing to believe Mr. Richards an honest man; but am, at the same time, afraid his religious turn of temper, however in itself commendable, would better suit with a woman who centers all desert in a solemn appearance, than with, dear aunt,

Your greatly obliged kinswoman.



L E T T E R XXIX.

Her aunt's answer, rebuking her ludicrous turn of mind.

Dear Niece,

I AM sorry you think Mr. Richards so unsuitable a lover. He is a serious, sober, good man: and surely when seriousness and sobriety make a necessary part of the duty of a good husband, a good father, and a good master of a family, those characters should not be the subject of ridicule, in persons of our sex especially, who would reap advantages from them. But he talks of the weather when he first sees you, it seems; and would you have had him directly fall upon the subject of love the moment he beheld you?

He visited you just after the sermon on a Sunday; and was it so unsuitable for him to let you see, that

the duty upon him

His turn which you from every kind of benevolent man, or apprentice, with very so willing would take

He gave character haviour, such a wise language, let me tell speech, he out a thousand at the first with you.

I think airy wit & account, thy man, compliments this.

I think way, as your matrimony respect as well be hoped with for much of the prime journey?

In the could be

the duty of the day had made proper impressions upon him?

His turn for promoting the religious societies, which you speak so slightly of, deserves more regard from every good person; for that same turn is a kind of security to a woman, that he who had a benevolent and religious heart could not make a bad man, or a bad husband. To put out poor boys to prentice, to teach girls to sing psalms, would be with very few a subject for ridicule; for he that was so willing to provide for the children of others, would take still greater care of his own.

He gave you to understand, that if he liked your character on enquiry, as well as your person and behaviour, he should think himself very happy in such a wife; for that, I dare say, was more like his language, than what you put in his mouth: And, let me tell you, it would have been a much stranger speech, had so cautious and serious a man said, without a thorough knowledge of your character, that at the first sight he was over head and ears in love with you.

I think, allowing for the ridiculous turn your airy wit gives to this first visit, that, by your own account, he acted like a prudent, serious, and worthy man, as he is, and like one who thought flashy compliments beneath him in so serious an affair as this.

I think, dear niece, this is not only a mighty safe way, as you call it, of travelling towards the land of matrimony, but to the land of happiness, with respect as well to the next world as this. And it is to be hoped, that the better entertainment you so much wish for on your journey, may not lead you too much out of your way, and divert your mind from the principal view which you ought to have at your journey's end.

In short, I should rather have wished that you could bring you mind nearer to his standard, than

that he should bring down his to your level. And you would have found more satisfaction in it than you imagine, could you have brought yourself to a little more of that solemn appearance, which you treat so lightly, and which, I think, in him is much more than mere appearance.

Upon the whole, dear niece, I am sorry, that a woman of virtue and morals, as you are, should treat so ludicrously a serious and pious frame of mind, in an age wherein good examples are so rare, and so much wanted; though, at the same time, I am far from offering to prescribe to you in so arduous an affair as a husband; and wish you, and Mr. Richards too, since you are so differently disposed, matched more suitable to each other's mind than you are likely to be together: For I am

Your truly affectionate aunt.



LETTER XXX.

A sailor to his sweetheart.

My dear Peggy,

IF you think of me half so often as I do of you, it will be every hour; for you are never out of my thoughts; and when I am asleep, I constantly dream of my dear Peggy. I wear my half bit of gold always at my heart, tied to a blue ribbon round my neck; for true blue, my dearest love, is a colour of colours to me. Where, my dearest, do you put yours? I hope you are careful of it: for it would be a bad omen to lose it.

I hope you hold in the same mind still, my dearest dear; for God will never bless you if you break the vows you have made to me. As to your ever faithful William, I would sooner have my heart torn from my breast, than it should harbour a wish for any other woman besides my Peggy. O, my dearest love!

you

you are the joy of my life ! my thoughts are all of you ; you are with me in all I do ; and my hopes and my wishes are only to be yours. God send it may be so.

Our captain talks of sailing soon for England ; and then, and then, my dearest Peggy !—O how I rejoice, how my heart beats with delight that makes me I cannot tell how, when I think of arriving in England, and joining hands with my Peggy, as we have our hearts before, I hope ! I am sure I speak for one.

John Arthur, in the good ship *Elisabeth*, Captain Winterton, which is returning to England, as I hope we shall soon, promises to deliver this into your own dear hand ; and he will bring you, too, six bottles of citron-water, as a token of my love. It is fit for the finest lady's taste, it is so good ; and is, what they say, ladies drink when they can get it.

John says, he will have one sweet kiss of my dearest Peggy, for his care and pains. So let him, my best love ; for I am not of a jealous temper. I have a better opinion of my dearest than so.—But oh ! that I was in his place !—One kiss should not serve my turn, though I hope it may his.—Yet if he takes two, I will forgive him ; one for me and one for himself. For I love John dearly ; and so you may well think. Well, What shall I say more !—or rather what shall I say next ? For I have an hundred things crowding in upon me, when I write to my dearest ; and alas ! one has so few opportunities ! but yet I must leave off ; for I have written to the bottom of my paper. Love then to all friends, and duty to both our mothers, conclude me,

Your faithful lover till death.

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# L E T T E R XXXI.

*Her answer.*

Dear William,

**F**OR so I may call you, now we are sure ; and so my mother says ; this is to let you know, that no-

thing shall prevail upon me to alter my promise made to you when we parted ; with heavy hearts enough, that is true : And yet I had a little inkling given me, that Mr. Alford's son, the carpenter, would be glad to make love to me : but do you think I would suffer it ? No, indeed ! for I doubt not your loyalty to me ; and do you think I will not be as loyal to you ?—To be sure I will. These sailors run such sad chances, said one that you and I both know ; they may return, and they may not. Well, I will trust in God for that, who has returned safe to his friends, their dear Billy so many a time, and often. They will have a mistress in every land they come to, said they. All are not such naughty men, said I ; and I will trust Billy Oliver all the world over. For why cannot men be as faithful as women, tro' ? And for me, I am sure no love shall ever touch my heart but yours.

God send us a happy meeting ? Let who will speak against sailors, they are the glory and the safeguard of the land. And what had become of Old England long ago but for them ? I am sure, the lazy good for nothing land-lubbers would never have protected us from our cruel foes. So sailors are, and ever shall be, esteemed by me ; and of all sailors, my dear Billy Oliver. Believe this truth from,

Your faithful, &c.

P. S. I had this letter writ in readiness to send you, as I had opportunity. And the captain's lady undertakes to send it with her's. That is very kind and condescending : is it not ?

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### LETTER XXXII.

*Miss Molly Smith to her cousin, giving her an account of a very remarkable instance of envy, in one of her acquaintance who lived in the city of York.*

Dear Cousin,

I Promised, you know, to write to you, when I had any thing to tell you ; and as I think the follow-  
ing

ing story very extraordinary, I was willing to keep my word.

Some time ago, there came to settle in this city, a lady whose name is Dison. We all visited her : but she had so deep a melancholy, arising, as it appeared, from a settled state of ill health, that nothing we could do, could afford her the least relief, or make her cheerful. In this condition she languished amongst us five years, still continuing to grow worse and worse.

We all grieved at her fate. Her flesh was withered away ; her appetite decayed by degrees, till all food became nauseous to her sight ; her strength failed her ; her feet could not support her tottering body, lean and worn away as it was ; and we hourly expected her death. When at last, she one day called her most intimate friends to her bedside, and, as well as she could, spoke to the following purpose :  
 “ I know you all pity me. But, alas ! I am not so much the object of your pity, as your contempt ;  
 “ for all my misery is of my own seeking, and owing to the wickedness of my own mind. I had  
 “ two sisters, with whom I was bred up ; and I have  
 “ all my life-time been unhappy, for no other cause  
 “ but for their success in the world. When we were  
 “ young, I could neither eat nor sleep in peace,  
 “ when they had either praise or pleasure. When  
 “ we grew up to be women, they were both soon  
 “ married much to their advantage and satisfaction.  
 “ This galled me to the heart ; and tho’ I had several good offers, yet as I did not think them in  
 “ all respects equal to my sisters, I would not accept  
 “ them ; and yet was inwardly vexed to refuse them,  
 “ for fear I should get no better. I generally deliberated so long that I lost my lovers, and then  
 “ pined for that loss. I never wanted for any  
 “ thing ; and was in a situation in which I might  
 “ have been happy, if I pleased. My sisters loved  
 “ me very well ; for I concealed, as much as possible,  
 “ — fible,



“ fible, from them my odious envy ; and yet never  
 “ did any poor wretch lead fo miserable a life as I  
 “ have done ; for every blessing they enjoyed was a  
 “ dagger to my heart. It is this envy that has  
 “ caused all my ill health, has preyed upon my  
 “ very vitals, and will now bring me to my grave.”

In a few days after this confession she died ; and her words and death made such a strong impression on my mind, that I could not help sending you this relation ; and begging you, my dear Sukey, to remember how careful we ought to be to curb, in our minds, the very first rising of a passion so detestable, and so fatal, as this proved to poor Mrs. Difon. I know I have no particular reason for giving you this caution ; for I never saw any thing in you, but what deserved the love and esteem of,

Your ever affectionate cousin,

M. S M I T H.



### L E T T E R XXXIII.

*The following letter is from an unknown lady, to a young gentleman, on whom she had unfortunately fixed her affections ; but as she never had it in her power to make any proper impressions on him, or a better opportunity of having her inclinations signified to him she wrote as follows ;*

S I R,

**I** Rely on your goodness to redress and conceal the misfortunes I now labour under ; but oh ! with what words shall I declare a passion which I blush to own ? It is now a year and a half since first I saw, and (must I say) loved you, and so long have I strove to forget you ; but frequent sights of what I could not but admire, have made my endeavours prove vain. I dare not subscribe to this letter, lest it should

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should fall into hands that may possibly expose it ; but if you, Sir, have any curiosity or desire to know who I am, I shall be in the park to-morrow exactly at two o'clock. I cannot but be under apprehensions, lest you should come more out of curiosity than compassion ; but however, that you may have some notion of me, if you do come, I will give you a short description of my person, which is tall and slender, my eyes and hair dark ; perhaps you will think me vain, when I tell you that my person altogether is, what the flattering world calls handsome ; and as to my fortune, I believe you will have no reason to find fault with it. I doubt you will think such a declaration as this, from a woman, ridiculous ; but, you will consider, it is custom, not nature, that makes it so. My hand trembles so, while I write that I believe you can hardly read it.

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L E T T E R XXXIV.

*The gentleman did not give himself the trouble to meet the lady, but took great pains to expose and ridicule her letter, though reproved for it by his acquaintance ; which coming to the lady's knowledge, she sent him the following.*

S I R,

**Y**OU will the more easily pardon this second trouble from a slighted correspondent, when I assure you it shall be the last.

A passion like mine, violent enough to break through customary decorums, cannot be supposed to grow calm at once ; but I hope I shall undergo no severer trials, or censures, than what I have done by taking this opportunity of discharging the remains of a tenderness, which I have so unfortunately and imprudently indulged. I would not complain of your unkindness and want of generosity in exposing my letter,

letter, because the man that is so unworthy of a woman's love, is too inconsiderable for her resentment; but I can't forbear asking you, What could induce you to publish my letter, and so cruelly to sport with the misery of a person whom you know nothing worse of, than that she had entertained too good, too fond an opinion of you?

For your own sake, I am loath to speak it, but such conduct cannot be accounted for, but from cruelty of mind, a vanity of temper, and an incurable defect of understanding. But whatsoever be the reason, amidst all my disappointments, I cannot but think myself happy in not subscribing my name; for you might perhaps have thought my name a fine trophy to grace your triumph after the conquest; and how great my confusion must have been, to be exposed to the scorn, or at least to the pity of the world, I may guess from the mortifications I now feel from seeing my declarations and professions returned without success, and in being convinced by the rash experience I have made, that my affections have been placed without discretion. How ungenerous your behaviour hath been, I had rather you were told by the gentlemen, (who I hear universally condemn it), than force myself to say any thing severe. But although their kind sense of the affair must yield me some satisfaction under my present uneasiness; yet it furnishes me with a fresh evidence of my own weakness, in lavishing my esteem upon the person that least deserved it.

I hope the event will give me reason not only to forgive, but to thank you for this ill usage. That pretty face, which I have so often viewed with a mistaken admiration, I believe I shall be able to look on with an absolute indifference; and time, I am sensible, will abundantly convince me, that your features are all the poor amends which nature hath made you for your want of understanding, and teach me to consider them only as a decent cover for the emptiness

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ness and deformity within. To cut off all hopes of your discovering who I am, if you do not yet know, I have taken care to convey this by a different hand from the former letter; for which I am obliged to a friend, on whose goodness and fidelity I can safely rely. And it is my last request, that you would make this letter as public as you have done the former. If you don't, there are other copies ready to be dispersed; for though I utterly despair of ever shewing it to yourself, yet I am very sure of making it plain to every one else, that you are a coxcomb. Adieu.



L E T T E R XXXV.

*Lydia to Harriot, a lady newly married.*

My dear Harriot,

**I**F thou art she, but oh, how fallen, how changed what an apostate! How lost to all that's gay and agreeable! To be married, I find is to be buried alive; I can't conceive it more dismal to be shut up in a vault to converse with the shades of my ancestors, than to be carried down to an old manor-house in the country, and confined to the conversation of a sober husband, and an awkward chambermaid. For variety, I suppose, you may entertain yourself with Madam in the program gown, the spouse of your parish vicar, who has, by this time, I am sure, well furnished you with receipts for making salves and possets, distilling cordial waters, making syrups, and applying poultices.

Blessed solitude! I wish thee joy, my dear, of thy loved retirement, which indeed you would persuade me is very agreeable, and different enough from what I have here described. But, child, I am afraid thy brains are a little disordered with romances and novels. After six months marriage to hear thee talk of love, and paint the country-scenes so softly, is a little extravagant;

extravagant; one would think you lived the lives of the sylvan deities, or roved among the walks of paradise, like the first happy pair. But prithee leave these whimsies, and come to town in order to live and talk like other mortals. However, as I am extremely interested in your reputation, I would willingly give you a little good advice at your first appearance under the character of a married woman. 'Tis a little insolent in me, perhaps, to advise a matron; but I am so afraid you'll make so silly a figure as a fond wife, that I cannot help warning you not to appear in any public place with your husband, and never to saunter about St James's Park together. If you presume to enter the Ring at Hide Park together, you are ruined for ever; nor must you take the least notice of one another at the play-house, or opera, unless you would be laughed at as a very loving couple, most happily paired in the yoke of wedlock. I would recommend the example of an acquaintance of ours to your imitation; she is the most negligent and fashionable wife in the world; she is hardly ever seen in the same place with her husband, and if they happen to meet they would think them perfect strangers. She never was heard to name him in his absence, and takes care he shall not be the subject of any discourse that she has a share in. I hope you will propose this lady as a pattern, tho' I am very much afraid you will be so silly to think Porcia, Sabina, &c. Roman wives, much brighter examples. I wish it may never come into your head to imitate those antiquated creatures so far, as to come into public in the habit, as well as the air of a Roman matron. You make already the entertainment at Mrs. Modish's tea-table; she says, she always thought you a discreet person, and qualified to manage a family with admirable prudence. She dies to see what demure and serious airs wedlock has given to you; but she says she shall never forgive your choice of so gallant a man as Bellmour, to transform

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him to a mere sober husband; it was unpardonable. You see, my dear, we all envy your happiness, and no person more than Your humble servant,

LYDIA.

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L E T T E R XXXVI.

*Harriot's answer to the above.*

**B**E not in pain, good Madam, for my appearance in town; I shall frequent no public places, or make any visits, where the character of a modest wife is ridiculous. As for your wild raillery on matrimony, it is all hypocrisy. You and all the handsome young women of your acquaintance, shew themselves to no other purpose, than to gain a conquest over some man of worth, in order to bestow your charms and fortune on him. There is no indecency in the confession, the design is modest and honourable, and all your affectation cannot disguise it.

I am married, and have no other concern but to please the man I love; he is the end of every care I have; if I dress, it is for him; if I read a poem or a play, it is to qualify myself for a conversation agreeable to his taste: he is almost the end of my devotion; half my prayers are for his happiness.—I love to talk of him, and never hear him named but with pleasure and emotion. I am your friend, and wish your happiness; but am sorry to see, by the air of your letter, that there are a set of women who are got into the common-place raillery of every thing that is sober, decent, and proper. Matrimony, and the clergy, are the topics of people of little wit and no understanding. I own to you, I have learned of the vicar's wife all you tax me with. She is a discreet, ingenious, pleasant, pious woman; I wish she had the handling of you and Mrs. Modish; you would find, if you were too free with her, she would make you blush as much as if you had never been fine ladies. The vicar, Madam, is so kind as to visit my husband, and his agreeable conversation

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has



has brought him to enjoy many sober happy hours, when even I am shut out, and my dear husband is entertained only with his own thoughts. These things, dear Madam, will be lasting satisfactions, when the fine ladies, and the coxcombs, by whom they form themselves, are irreparably ridiculous, ridiculous even in old age. I am, Madam, Your most humble serv.

HARRIOT.

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### LETTER XXXVII.

The following pretty entertaining letter was written by our poet Waller, to the Lady Sidney, on the marriage of her sister.

*To my Lady Lucy Sidney, upon the marriage of my Lady Dorothy to my Lord Spencer.*

Madam,

**I**N the common joy at Penshurst \* I know none to whom complaints may come less unseasonable than to your Ladyship; the loss of a bed-fellow being almost equal to that of a mistress; and therefore you ought, at least, to pardon, if you consent not to the imprecations of the deserted; which just heaven no doubt will hear!

May my Lady Dorothy (if we may yet call her so) suffer as much, and have the like passion for this young Lord, whom she has preferred to the rest of mankind, as others have had for her: and may this love, before the year goes about, make her taste of the first curse imposed on woman-kind, the pains of becoming a mother! May her first-born be none of her own sex! nor so like her, but that he may resemble her Lord as much as herself!

May she that always affected silence and retiredness, have the house filled with the noise and number of her children; and hereafter of her grandchildren! and then may she arrive at that great curse so much declined by fair ladies,—old age! May she live to be

very

\* They were married, as we are informed, at Penshurst, July 11. 1639.

very old, and yet seem young; be told so by her  
glafs, and have no aches to inform her of the truth !  
And when she shall appear to be mortal, may her  
Lord not mourn for her, but go, hand in hand with  
her, to that place, where, we are told, there is nei-  
ther marrying, nor giving in marriage; that being  
there divorced, we may have all an equal interest  
in her again ! My revenge being immortal, I wish  
all this may also befall their posterity to the world's  
end, and afterwards.

To you, Madam, I wish all good things; and that  
this loss may in good time be happily supplied with  
a more constant bedfellow of the other sex.

Madam, I humbly kiss your hand, and beg par-  
don for this trouble, from your Ladyship's most  
humble

EDMUND WALLER.

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# LETTER XXXVIII.

The wit and spirit that gave Lady Mary Wortley Montague,  
during her life, such rank in the polite world, was in no  
instance more happily displayed than in the following let-  
ter. We think the polite reader will be of opinion with  
us, that there is no letter in the collection lately published,  
and supposed to have been wrote by the same lady, where  
the life and spirit of the writer is to be more admired, or  
the sentiments more approved.

*A letter from Lady Wortley Montague, against a maxim  
of Mons. Rochefaucault's, " That marriages are con-  
venient, but never delightful."*

IT appears very bold in me to attempt to destroy a  
maxim established by so celebrated a genius as  
Mons. de Rochefaucault, and implicitly received by  
a nation which calls itself the only perfectly polite in  
the world, and which has, for so long a time, given  
laws of gallantry to all Europe.

But, full of the ardour which the truth inspires,  
I dare to advance the contrary, and to assert, boldly,  
that it is marriage-love only which can be delightful  
to a good mind.

We cannot taste the sweets of perfect love but in  
a well-suited marriage. Nothing so much distinguish-

es a little mind as to stop at words. What signifies that custom (for which we see very good reasons) of making the name of husband and wife ridiculous? A husband signifies, in the general interpretation, a jealous mortal, a quarrelsome tyrant, or a good sort of fool, on whom we may impose any thing; a wife is a domestic dæmon, given to this poor man to deceive and torment him. The conduct of the generality of people sufficiently justifies these two characters. But I say, again, What signify words? A well-regulated marriage is not like those of ambition and interest: It is two lovers who live together. Let a priest pronounce certain words, let an attorney sign certain papers; I look upon these preparations as a lover does on a ladder of cords, that he fixes to the window of his mistress.

I know there are some people of false delicacy, who maintain that the pleasures of love are only due to difficulties and dangers. They say, very wittily, the rose would not be the rose without thorns, and a thousand other trifles of that nature, which makes so little impression on my mind, that I am persuaded, was I a lover, the fear of hurting her I loved would make me unhappy, if the possession was accompanied with dangers to her. The life of married lovers is very different; they pass it in a chain of mutual obligations and marks of benevolence, and have the pleasure of forming the intire happiness of the object beloved; in which point I place perfect enjoyment.

The most trifling cares of œconomy become noble and delicate, when they are heightened by sentiments of tenderness. To furnish a room is no longer furnishing a room, it is ornamenting the place where I expect my lover; to order a supper is not simply giving orders to a cook, it is amusing myself in regaling him I love. These necessary occupations, regarded in this light by a lover, are pleasures infinitely more sensible and lively than cards and public places, which make the happiness of the multitude incapable of true pleasure.—A passion happy and

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contented, softens every movement of the soul, and gilds each object that we look on.

To a happy lover (I mean one married to his mistress) if he has any employment, the fatigues of the camp, the embarrassments of a court, every thing becomes agreeable when he can say to himself, It is to serve her I love. If fortune is favourable, (for that does not depend on merit), and gives success to his undertaking, all the advantages he receives are offerings due to her charms; and he finds, in the success of his ambition, pleasure much more lively and worthy a noble mind, than that of raising his fortune, or of being applauded by the public. He enjoys his glory, his rank, his riches, but as they regard her he loves; and it is her lover she hears praised when he gains the approbation of the parliament, the praises of the army, or the favour of his prince. In misfortune, it is his consolation to retire to a person who feels his sorrow, and to say to himself in her arms, "My happiness does not depend on the caprice of fortune; here is my assured asylum against all grief; your esteem makes me insensible to the injustice of a court, or the ingratitude of a master. I feel a sort of pleasure in the loss of my estate, as that misfortune gives me new proofs of your virtue and tenderness. How little desirable is grandeur to persons already happy? We have no need of flatterers or equipage; I reign in your heart, and I possess in your person all the delights of nature." In short, there is no situation of which the melancholy may not be softened by the company of the person we love. Even an illness is not without its pleasures, when we are attended by one we love. I should never have done, was I to give you a detail of all the charms of an union in which we find, at once, all that flatters the senses in the most delicate and most extended pleasure; but I cannot conclude without mentioning the satisfaction of seeing each day increase the amiable pledges of our tender friendship, and the occupations

of improving them according to their different sexes. We abandon ourselves to the tender instinct of nature refined by love. We admire in the daughter the beauty of the mother, and respect in the son the appearances of understanding and natural probity which we esteem in the father. It is a pleasure, of which God himself (according to Moses) was sensible, when seeing what he had done he found, it good.

A propos of Moses, the first plan of happiness infinitely surpassed all others; and I cannot form to myself an idea of paradise more delightful than that state in which our first parents were placed. That did not last, because they did not know the world; (which is the true reason that there are so few love-matches happy.) Eve may be considered as a foolish child, and Adam as a man very little enlightened. When people of that sort meet, they may, perhaps, be amorous at first, but that cannot last. They form to themselves, in the violence of their passions, ideas above nature; a man thinks his mistress an angel, because she is handsome; a woman is enchanted with the merit of her lover, because he adores her. The first change of her complexion takes from him his adoration, and the husband ceasing to adore her, becomes hateful to her, who had no other foundation for her love; by degrees they are disgusted with one another, and, after the example of our first parents, they throw on each other the crime of their mutual weakness; afterwards coldness and contempt follow a great pace, and they believe they must hate each other because they are married; their smallest faults are magnified in each other's sight, and they are blinded to their mutual perfections. A commerce established upon passion can have no other attendants. A man when he marries his mistress, ought to forget that she then appears adorable to him; to consider that she is but a simple mortal, subject to diseases, caprice, and ill-humour. He must prepare his constancy to support the loss of her beauty, and collect a fund of complacency, which is neces-

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fary for the continual conversation of the person who is most agreeable, and the least unequal. The woman, on her side, must not expect a continuance of flatteries and obedience. She must dispose herself to obey agreeably; a science very difficult, and, of consequence, of great merit to a man capable of feeling. She must strive to heighten the charms of a mistress by the good sense and solidity of a friend. When two persons, prepossessed with sentiments so reasonable, are united by eternal ties, all nature smiles upon them, and the common objects become charming.

I esteem much the morals of the Turks, an ignorant people, but very polite, in my opinion. A gallant convicted of having debauched a married woman, is looked upon by them with the same horror as an abandoned woman by us; he is sure never to make his fortune; and every one would be ashamed to give a considerable employment to a man suspected of being guilty of so enormous a crime.—What would they say in that moral nation, were they to see one of our anti-knight-errants, who are always in pursuit of adventures to put innocent young women in distress, and to ruin the honour of women of fashion; who regard beauty, youth, rank, and virtue, but as so many spurs to incite their desire to ruin, and who place all their glory in appearing artful seducers, forgetting, that, with all their care, they can never attain but to the second rank, the devils having been long since in possession of the first!

I own, that our barbarous manners are so well calculated for the establishment of vice and misery, (which is inseparable from it), that they must have hearts and heads infinitely above the common, to enjoy the felicity of a marriage such as I have described. Nature is so weak, and so given to change, that it is difficult to support the best founded constancy, amidst those many dissipations that our ridiculous customs have rendered inevitable. A husband, who loves his wife, is in pain to see her take the liberties which fashion allows; it appears hard to refuse  
 them,



them to her, and he finds himself obliged to conform himself to the polite manners of Europe; to see, every day, her hands a prey to every one who will take them; to hear her display, to the whole world, the charms of her wit; to shew her neck in full day, to dress for balls and shows, to attract admirers, and to listen to the idle flattery of a thousand fops. Can any man support his esteem for a creature so public, or, at least, does she not lose much of her merit.

To return to the oriental maxims, where the most beautiful women content themselves with limiting the power of their charms to him who has a right to enjoy them; they have too much honour to wish to make other men miserable and are too sincere not to own they think themselves capable of exciting a passion.

I remember a conversation I had with a lady of great quality at Constantinople, the most aimable woman I ever knew in my life, and for whom I had afterwards the most tender friendship; she owned ingenuously to me, that she was content with her husband. What libertines you Christian women are! (she said); it is permitted to you to receive visits from as many men as you please; and your laws permit you, without limitation, the use of wine. I assured her she was very much misinformed; that it was true we received visits, but those visits were full of form and respect, and that it was a crime to hear a man talk of love, or for us to love any other than our husbands. Your husbands are very good (said she, laughing) to content themselves with so limited a fidelity. Your eyes, your hands, your conversation, are for the public, and what do you pretend to reserve for them? Pardon me, my beautiful Sultana, (added she, embracing me), I have all possible inclination to believe what you say, but you would impose upon me impossibilities. I know the amorous complexion of your infidels, I see you are ashamed of them, and I will never mention them to you more.

I found so much good sense and truth in all she said,

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said, that I could scarcely contradict her; and I owned at first, that she had reasons to prefer the morals of the Mussulmen to our ridiculous customs, which are surprisngly opposite to the severe maxims of Christianity. And notwithstanding our foolish manners, I am of opinion, that a woman, determined to find her hapiness in the love of her husband, must give up the extravagant desire of being admired by the public; and that a husband who loves his wife, must deprive himself of the reputation of being a gallant at court. You see that I suppose two persons very extraordinary; it is not, then, very surprisng such an union should be rare in a country where it is necessary, in order to be happy, to despise the established maxims. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXIX.

*From a lady to a gentleman, who had obtained all her friends consent, urging him to decline his suit to her.*

SIR,

YOU have often importuned me to return marks of that consideration for you, which you profess for me. As my parents, to whom I owe all duty, encourage your address, I wish I could. I am hardly treated by them because I cannot. What shall I do? Let me apply to you, Sir, for my relief. who have much good sense, and, I hope, generosity. Yes, Sir, let me bespeak your humanity to me, and justice to yourself, in this point; and that shall be all I will ask in my favour. I own you deserve a much better wife than I shall ever make; but yet, as love is not in one's own power, if I have the misfortune to know I cannot love you, will not justice to yourself, if not pity to me, oblige you to abandon your present purpose?

But as to myself, Sir, why should you make a poor creature unhappy in the displeasure of all her friends at present, and still more unhappy, if to avoid that, she gives up her person, where she cannot bestow her

her heart? If you love me, as you profess, let me ask you, Sir, is it for my sake, or is it your own?—If for mine, how can it be, when I must be miserable, if I am forced to marry where I cannot love? If for your own, reflect, Sir, on the selfishness of your love, and judge if it deserves from me the return you wish.

How sadly does this love already operate! You love me so well, that you make me miserable in the anger of my dearest friends!—Your love has already made them think me undutiful; and instead of the fondness and endearment I used to be treated with by them, I meet with nothing but chidings, frowns, flights, and displeasure.

And what is this love of yours to do for me hereafter?—Why, hereafter, Sir, it will be turned into hatred or indifference at least: for then, though I cannot give you my heart, I shall have given you a title to it, and you will have a lawful claim to its allegiance. May it not then, nay, ought it not to be treated on the foot of a rebel, and expect punishment as such, instead of tenderness? Even were I to be treated with mercy, with goodness, with kindness by you, and could not deserve or return it, what a wretch would your love make me! How would it involve me in the crying sin of ingratitude! How would it destroy my reputation in the world's eye, that the best of husbands had the worst of wives!—the kindest of men, the unkindest of women!

Cease then, I beseech you, this hopeless, this cruel pursuit!—Make some worthier person happier in your addresses, that can be happy in them!--By this means, you will restore me (if you decline as of your own motion) to the condition you found me in, the love of my parents, and the esteem of my friends. If you really love me, this may be a hard task, but it will be a most generous one.—And there is some reason to expect it; for who that truly loves, wishes to make the object of his love miserable? This must I be, if you persist in your addresses; and I shall know

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by your conduct, on occasion of this uncommon request, how to consider it, and in what light to place you, either as the most generous, or the most ungenerous of men. Mean time I am, Sir, most heartily, though I cannot be what you would have me, Your wellwisher, and humble servant.

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L E T T E R XL.

*The gentleman's answer to the lady's uncommon request.*

Dear Madam,

I AM exceedingly concerned, that I cannot be as acceptable to you, as I have the good fortune to find myself to your honoured parents. If, Madam, I had reason to think it was owing to your prepossession in some happier man's favour, I should utterly despair of it, and should really think it would be unjust to myself, and ungenerous to you, to continue my address. As therefore you have, by your appeal to me, in so uncommon a way, endeavoured to make me a party against myself, and I have shewn so much regard to you, as to be willing to oblige you, as far as I can, may I not hope the favour of you to declare generously, whether I owe my unhappiness to such a prepossession, and whether your heart is given to some other? If this be the case, you shall find all you wish on my part; and I shall take a pride to plead against myself, let me suffer ever so much by it, to your father and mother; but if not, and you have taken any other disgusts to my person or behaviour, that there may be hope my utmost affection and assiduity, or a contrary conduct, may, in time, get the better of, let me implore you to permit me still to continue my zealous respects to you; for this I will say, that there is not a man in the world who can address you with a sincerer and more ardent flame, than, dear Madam, your affectionate admirer, and humble servant.

L E T.

## L E T T E R XLI.

*The lady's reply, in case of a prepossession.*

S I R,

I Thank you for your kind assurance, that you will befriend me in the manner I wish; and I think I owe it to your generosity to declare, there is a person in the world, that, might I be left to my own choice, I should prefer to all other men. To this, Sir, it is owing that your address cannot meet with the return it might otherwise deserve from me. Yet are things so circumstanced, that while my friends prefer you, and know nothing of the other, I should find it very difficult to obtain their contents. But your generous discontinuance, without giving them the true reason for it, will lay an obligation, greater than I can express, on

Your most humble servant.

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## L E T T E R XLII.

*The lady's reply, in case of no prepossession, or that she chuses not to avow it.*

S I R,

I AM sorry to say that my disapprobation of your address is insuperable.—Yet I cannot but think myself beholden to you for the generosity of your answer to my earnest request. I must beg you, Sir, to give over your application; but how can I say, while I cannot help being of this mind, that it is, or is not owing to a prepossession; when you declare, that in the one instance (and that is very generous too) you will oblige me; but in the other you will not? If I cannot return love for love, be the motive what it will, pray, Sir, for your own sake, as well as mine, discontinue your address.—In case of prepossession you say you can, and you will oblige me. Let my unworthiness, Sir, have the same effect upon you, as if that prepossession were to be avowed. This will inspire me with a gratitude that will always make me

Your most obliged servant.

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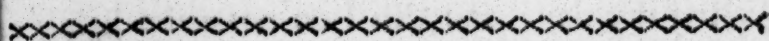
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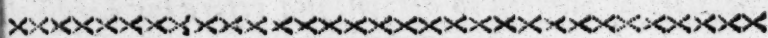


THE COMPLETE  
LETTER-WRITER.



P A R T III.

Familiar letters of advice and instruction, &c. in many concerns of life.



L E T T E R I.

*A letter from Judge Hale, Lord Chief Justice of England, to his children; on the serious observance of the Lord's day, (commonly called Sunday), when he was on a journey, which well deserves our attention.*

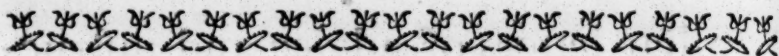
I AM now come well to —, from whence I intend to write something to you on the observance of the Lord's day; and this I do for these reasons: 1st, Because it has pleased God to cast my lot so, that I am to rest at this place on that day, and the consideration therefore of that duty is proper for me and you, viz. the work fit for that day. 2dly, Because I have, by long and sound experience found, that the due observance of that day, and the duties of it, has been of singular comfort and advantage to me; and I doubt not but it will prove so to you. God Almighty is the Lord of our time, and lends it us; and it is but just we should consecrate this part of that time to him; for I have found, by a strict and diligent observation, that a due observance of the duty of this day, has ever had joined to it a blessing on the

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the rest of my time ; and the week that hath been so begun, has been blessed and prosperous to me. On the other side, when I have been negligent of the duty of this day, the rest of the week has been unsuccessful and unhappy to my own secular employment, so that I could easily make an estimate of my successes the week following, by the manner of my passing this day ; and this I do not write lightly or inconsiderately, but upon a long and sound observation and experience.



## LETTER II.

*The Earl of Stafford to his son, just before his Lordship's execution.*

My dear Will,

THESE are the last lines that you are to receive from a father that tenderly loves you. I wish there was a greater leisure to impart my mind unto you ; but our merciful God will supply all things by his grace, and will guide and protect you in all your ways ; to whose infinite goodness I bequeath you ; and therefore be not discouraged, but serve him, and trust in him, and he will preserve and prosper you in all things. Be sure you give all respects to my wife, that hath ever had a great love unto you, and therefore will it be well becoming you. Never be wanting in your love and care to your sisters, but let them ever be most dear unto you : for this will give others cause to esteem and respect you for it, and is a duty that you owe them in the memory of your excellent mother and myself. Therefore your care and affection to them must be the very same that you are to have of yourself ; and the like regard must you have to your youngest sister ; for indeed you owe it her also, both for her father and mother's sake. Sweet Will, be careful to take the advice of those friends,

who

who are, by me, desired to advise you for your education. Serve God diligently morning and evening; and recommend yourself unto him, and have him before your eyes in all your ways. With patience hear the instructions of those friends I leave with you, and diligently follow their counsel. For, till you come by time to have experience in the world, it will be far more safe to trust to their judgment than your own. Lose not the time of your youth, but gather those seeds of virtue and knowledge which may be of use to yourself, and comfort to your friends for the rest of your life. And that this may be the better effected, attend thereto with patience, and be sure to correct and refrain yourself from anger. Suffer not sorrow to cast you down, but with cheerfulness and good courage go on the race you have to run in all sobriety and truth. Be sure with an hallowed care to have respect to all the commandments of God, and give not yourself to neglect them in the least thing, lest, by degrees, you come to forget them in the greatest; for the heart of man is deceitful above all things. And in all your duties and devotions towards God, rather perform them joyfully than pensively; for God loves a cheerful giver. For your religion, let it be directed according to that which shall be taught by those who are in God's church, the proper teachers thereof, rather than that you either fancy one to yourself, or be led by men that are singular in their own opinion, and delight to go ways of their own finding out: for you will certainly find soberness and truth in the one, and much unsteadiness and vanity in the other. The king, I trust, will deal graciously with you; restore you those honours, and that fortune, which a distempered time hath deprived you of, together with the life of your father; which I rather advise might be by a new gift and creation from himself, than by any other means, to the end you may pay the thanks to him, without having obligations to any other. Be sure to

avoid, as much as you can, to inquire after those that have been sharp in their judgments towards me, and I charge you never to suffer thoughts of revenge to enter into your heart; but be careful to be informed who were my friends in this prosecution, and to them apply yourself to make them your friends also; and on such you may rely, and bestow much of your conversation among them. And God Almighty, of his infinite goodness, bless you and your childrens children: and his same goodness bless your sisters in like manner; perfect you in every good work, and give you right understanding in all things Amen.

Your most loving father,

T. WENTWORTH.

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### L E T T E R III.

*From a gentleman at Lisbon, immediately after the earthquake, to his son in London.*

My dear Son,

**E**RE you receive this from your unhappy father, you will have heard of the destruction of this place, and of the calamitous situation of its few remaining miserable inhabitants. God, in his infinite mercy, protect us! All that you have heard will fall short of what I have seen; for no words have energy sufficient to convey an idea of a scene so amazingly dreadful.—Your poor mother is no more?—ask me not for your sisters!—and as for myself, I am a vagabond, and condemned to seek my bread from those who can ill afford to feed me. But *the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away*.—I am satisfied.—All may be for the best, and our friends are, I doubt not, removed to a more permanent city, whose foundations are not to be shaken, and where sorrow is no more. Let us, my dear child, prepare to follow them; and that we may do so, let us live here that we may fear no dissolution, nor dread what may happen hereafter. Let us always be prepared for the worst,

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worst, and not depend on a death-bed repentance; for you see we have not a moment that we can call our own. St AUSTIN says, *We read of one man who was saved at the last hour, that none may despair; and of but one, that none may presume.* How unsafe, how foolish, therefore, is it to put off that until to-morrow which is so essentially necessary to be done to-day? To-morrow may never come!—Oh think of that! you may be snatched away in an instant, as thousands here have been, for there is no withstanding the arms of the Almighty: No! the attempt would be vain, would be presumptuous, would be impious; and you will find, my dear son, (I hope not too late), that the only security against accidents of this sort, is the leading a religious and good life.

I am, Your truly affectionate father.



#### L E T T E R IV.

*To Amelia, with a gold thimble.*

Sept. 28. 1774.

CAN you believe me, my little friend, when I say that the present I now make you may be of more service to you in the course of your life, than the ring of Gyges, and that I deserve your thanks as much as if I had given you the cap of Fortunatus. Perhaps you may have heard only of the latter, I will explain to you the virtues of the ring. This, my little fair, would render you invisible whenever you chose to be so; you might then range through the apartments of your play fellows unseen, play ten thousand little tricks which at present it is not in your power to do; but indeed, the greatest advantages of the ring are reserved for another age, when you may be present with your lover, and discover the true sentiments of his heart, perplex your rival, hide her Brussels and her jewels the night before a ball, and torment her with all the arts of ingenious mischief. These are advantages which at present, perhaps, may not tempt

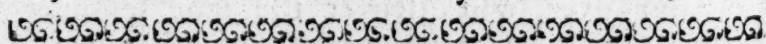
tempt you ; the cap, as I can easily imagine, to be rather the object of your wishes ; but tell me, you say, how this thimble can be of such infinite service !

At your age, my little friend, employment is of the utmost use : to be busy, if it be not learning to be virtuous, will at least protect you from the contrary impressions. Whilst your imagination is employed how best to shade a rose, or your fancy determines the colours of the various parts of your work, vanity will scarce have time to whisper in your ear, that you have more beauty than another, or inspire you with too early a love of gaiety and pleasure.

When you have lived to that age in which your reason shall be ripened, you will, perhaps, perceive that those little follies which your sex are guilty of proceed from a fault in their education, and that idleness is the parent of vice. Thus then, in the early years of life, whilst you place the thimble on your finger, you are guarding your bosom against the approach of foibles which might banish those from your society, who were attracted by the charms of your person.

Another of its virtues, which, in all probability, you can never want to experience, is, that, if properly applied, it contains a charm against the calamities of poverty. I have known many a female, who, by its assistance, has supported herself with decency, and felt the pleasure of living, without depending on the beneficence of others.

A few years hence, when the youth whom your eyes have wounded, shall beg your acceptance of some trifle in the warmest terms imaginable, he will entreat you to preserve it ; but I, on the contrary, shall desire you to be frequent in the use of this, and to wear it out for my sake. I am, &c.



#### L E T T E R V.

*On the vicissitudes of human life.*

**R**EMEMBER, my son, that human life is the journey of a day. We rise in the morning of youth, full

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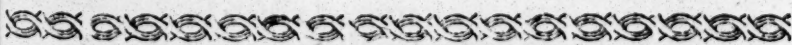
full of vigour, and full of expectation; we set forward with spirit and hope, with gaiety and with diligence, and travel on a while, in the straight road of piety, towards the mansions of rest. In a short time we remit our fervour, and endeavour to find some mitigation of our duty, and some more easy means of obtaining the same end. We then relax our vigour, and resolve no longer to be terrified with crimes at a distance, but rely upon our own constancy, and venture to approach what we resolve never to touch. We thus enter the bowers of ease, and repose in the shades of security. Here the heart softens, and vigilance subsides; we are then willing to inquire, whether another advance cannot be made, and whether we may not, at least, turn our eyes upon the gardens of pleasure. We approach them with scruple and hesitation; we enter them, but enter timorous and trembling, and always hope to pass through them without losing the road of virtue, which we, for a while, keep in our sight, and to which we propose to return. But temptation succeeds temptation, and one compliance prepare us for another; we, in time, lose the happiness of innocence, and solace our disquiet with sensual gratifications. By degrees we let fall the remembrance of our original intention, and quit the only adequate object of rational desire. We entangle ourselves in business, immerge ourselves in luxury, and rove through the labyrinths of inconstancy, till the darkness of old age begins to invade us, and disease and anxiety obstruct our way. We then look back upon our lives with horror, with sorrow, with repentance; and wish, but too often vainly wish, that we had not forsaken the ways of virtue. Happy are they, my son, who learn not to despair, but shall remember that though the day is past, and their strength is wasted, there yet remains one effort to be made; that reformation is never hopeless, nor sincere endeavours ever unassisted; that the wanderer may at length return after all his errors; and that he who

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companions, by daring to say and do abusive things to their governors: but do not you imitate such examples; for prudence is true magnanimity. A brave mind is seen in persevering through the difficulties of a virtuous course; in the conquest of irregular appetites and passions, and in scorning to do any thing that is mean or base. Have nothing to do with politics, which when you shall have studied all your life, you will not have found out what will hereafter be the humours or resentments, or private interests, or public views of men in power: A study, which, as it is generally directed, rather leads from virtue, is foreign to your present purpose, and in which, if you could really have any skill, at your age it would seem to be affected. Take the proper advantages of living in a society. Observe the different tempers and dispositions of men; shun their vices, imitate their virtues, make use of their learning, and let the many eyes that are upon you, the consciousness of your duty, and the indignation to be insignificant, raise an emulation in you to excel in some kind of art or knowledge, that may hereafter be of use to the public. From the moment of your entrance take care of your reputation. Let not one exercise go out of your hands that hath not employed your utmost diligence. Notwithstanding the affection I have for you, I shall not be able to do you the service I desire, unless you assist me with your character. And, in all doubtful cases, let not your father, who loves you best, and your governors, who are well able to direct you, be the only friends that you will not consult. I am, &c.



## L E T T E R VII.

*To Demetrius, with a present of fruit, on early rising.*

June 28. 1766.

**Y**OU would have received a much larger quantity of fruit, but, to say the truth, my band of musicians

ficians have made bold with more of it this summer than usual; however, when I consider that it is the only wages I pay them, I am no otherwise displeased with it, than as it prevents me from obliging my friends in town as I could wish.

My Lucinda, you know, is extremely fond of birds, and she says it would be cruel to deprive them of their liberty, when we can be entertained with their songs without it; to encourage then their residence amongst us, they are not denied a great share of the productions of my garden.

We were this morning at six o'clock in our garden; an hour which you are totally unacquainted with, and which, notwithstanding, affords the noblest scene which a human creature can be present at.

The sun, my Demetrius, was just risen above the horizon, and all the eastern sky was tinged with blushes, the zephyrs as they passed, were fraught with fragrance from the opening flowers, and the feathered songsters were waked to their respective parts, in their morning hymn to the Author of nature.

Whilst my Lucinda and I were walking, like a fond old-fashioned couple, arm in arm, I could not but recollect that part of the Paradise lost, where Milton has described our first parents as rising to their labours, and addressing their grateful orisons to the bounteous Father of every mercy.

There is indeed something which at this time inspires us with gratitude to our Maker, and produces sentiments in almost every bosom, like those which are given to Adam.

*These are thy glorious works, Parent of good,  
Almighty, thine this universal frame  
Thus wondrous fair; thyself how wondrous then,  
Unspeakable, who first above these heavens  
To us invisible or dimly seen  
In these thy lowest works, yet these declare  
Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine.*

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grateful sense of our obligation to heaven, when we wake again to life, with the blessing of health, and recollect that many have passed the night in all the anguish of pain and disease. As for myself, I should retire to sleep with no little anxiety, if I were not assured that we are protected in those hours by our Maker, when we are not conscious of our own existence. There cannot surely be a more comfortable reflection than being convinced that a power who commands and directs all nature is our guard, without whose knowledge no action is committed, nor even the most secret thought can arise.

With this confidence of security the good man commits himself to the arms of sleep, where all besides must fear it; and feels serenity, where every other breast must be discomposed.

The usual serenity of the morning, which inspired every warbler with cheerfulness, detained us in the garden till our little boy came running to inform us that the breakfast waited.

"Is it not extremely absurd," said Lucinda, as we returned, "for mankind to complain of the short duration of their lives, when they even refuse to live a number of hours which providence has bestowed on them? How many can we recollect amongst our acquaintance, who have been lost to every joy this morning has afforded us, and who may, notwithstanding, before night assert, that the age which men in general attain to, serves only to conduct them to a superficial knowledge of the sciences, or that old age approaches almost as soon as we begin to live?"

Such indeed is frequently the language of human creatures, who lose the most valuable parts of every day. Such too I have heard from your mouth, but then indeed you rise—by eleven.

Lucinda and myself, who are great advocates for early hours, want much to try whether we cannot reform you, as we have already done Leontes; and should

should therefore rejoice to see you amongst us; there is then some probability of your seeing the sun rise, which I sincerely believe you have not done for many years, and which is one of the most pleasing scenes upon the theatre of nature. I am, &c.

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### LETTER VIII.

*To Lucinda, on the happiness of a domestic matrimonial life.*

July 5. 1764.

AFTER so many years which we have passed, my Lucinda, almost without separation, one would naturally imagine that the few days absence I have known should not be displeasing; and yet, believe me, I am already tired of the town, and am preparing to leave it with the utmost expedition to return to domestic joys.

When I reflect on my disposition, I am greatly thankful to providence, that the same dislike for public pleasures has always prevailed on Lucinda as myself, and that we have been actuated by the same inclinations during the tenor of our lives.

Though I own myself in general but little fond of the town, yet I never fail of seeing objects in it which remind me of my own felicity, and increase the love I bear you. Alas! my dear, the fashionable tenor of matrimonial lives is so little suited to my turn of mind, that I must have been wretched with what is now called a very good wife. I could by no means have endured to see the heart of the woman I loved, entirely devoted to pleasure, nor have ever been content to share it with the king of trumps.

It is, however, happy for mankind, that the same delicacy does not universally prevail, as there are now many couple who are thought to be happy, because the wife has never transgressed the bounds of virtue, nor the husband treated her with language which

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which he would be ashamed to use to a stranger. Their amusements are distinct from each other, they know nothing of that heart-felt joy which arises from being with those they love, secluded from every eye, and breathing the sweets of the balmy evening. Their only care is refining those pleasures which repetition has rendered dull, and inventing new arts to pass the tedious day, which, notwithstanding their endeavours, afford some hours in which that most impertinent of all companions, called *Self*, never fails of intrusion.

There are many women in the world, I believe, to whom I might have made a good husband, but I do not recollect any one but my Lucinda who could have made me a happy one. How greatly then am I indebted to thy amiable disposition and virtues, since indifference and contempt are to be incompatible in the marriage-state? To heaven likewise, my sincerest thanks are due, for preserving its best and most valuable gift to bless my life. For, as Milton elegantly expresses it,

*With thee conversing I forget all time,  
All seasons and their change, all please alike.  
Sweet is the breath of morn, her rising sweet,  
With charm of earliest birds; pleasant the sun,  
When first on this delightful land he spreads  
His orient beams, on herb, tree, fruit, and flower,  
Glist'ring with dew; fragrant the fertile earth  
After soft showers; and sweet the coming on  
Of grateful evening mild; then silent night,  
With this her solemn bird, and this fair moon,  
And these the gems of heav'n, her starry train:  
But neither breath of morn, when she ascends  
With charm of earliest birds, nor rising sun  
On this delightful land; nor herb, fruit, flower,  
Glist'ring with dew, nor fragrance after showers;  
Nor grateful evening mild; nor silent night,  
With this her solemn bird, nor walk by moon,  
Or glittering star-light, without thee is sweet.*

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Having once begun those beautiful lines of my Lucinda's favourite poet, I found it impossible to break off sooner; nay, I was pleased to be able to express so elegantly the language of my heart.

Aranthes, who is just come in, and has looked over my shoulder, upon seeing so much poetry, cried out, Very fine, truly, I shall take the first opportunity to inform Lucinda of this, I assure you. If you have any thing, I replied, to acquaint Lucinda with, you may make use of me, for I am now writing to her. How is this? says Arantes, what larding your letters with poetry after more than twenty years marriage? I concluded you were addressing some other fair one, and endeavouring to soften her inexorable heart by the muse's assistance. But come with me to Lady —'s. Not a word, however, of Lucinda all night; to be seen with such an old-fashioned creature as you, would spoil my reputation entirely, if your character should once be known.

You know Arantes, my Lucinda, extremely well, and will perceive by this that he is still the same man as ever. He desires me to apologize for his taking me from you, as he calls it, and at the same time to send you his compliments. My blessing to the children, whom I shall make happy by some little presents at my return; to thee, my love, I shall bring a heart more truly thine than ever, more intimately acquainted with thy virtues, and more perfectly convinced of its own felicity. Believe me, &c.



## LETTER IX.

*To Cleanthes, on friendship, age, and death.*

Nov. 15. 1765.

**I**T is no small alleviation to that anxiety which the loss of a friend produces, to reflect that the same virtues which procured him our esteem, will like-

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wife entitle him to eternal happiness. This consolation I received upon closing the eyes of Aristus, the last and most melancholy office which friendship can perform.

At length, my Cleanthes, that friendship, which we once divided, is now confined to ourselves. We have seen those who advanced with us along the vale of life, sink into the grave, and have lived to be the only links of the chain of friendship which we helped to constitute at our entrance on the world. We have together, in the hours of youth, looked back and despised the toys of infancy, in our manhood we have smiled at the pleasures of our youth, and are now come to that age in which we look back on all alike, and consider every prospect that terminates on this side the grave as beneath our notice or regard.

At this season of life, one of the most considerable pleasures which remain to human nature, is the recollection of the moments which are past. Now, whilst I write to my Cleanthes, I recal with satisfaction the time in which we were induced, by a parity of sentiments, to form the social connection, and the steady union in which we have passed from that hour to the present. The time approaches which must put a period to our friendship; none hope that Providence will extend their lives to an unusual length, but those who fear to die; as for ourselves, we have reached the age which few are born to attain, and which, in the language of an admired writer, requires a great deal of providence to produce. I flatter myself that our days have been so spent that we have no reason to tremble at the thought of our last, nor embitter the remaining part of our life with apprehension for the inevitable hour to come.

We have lent the tear of pity to distress, and alleviated the misfortune of our fellow-creatures; we have neither indulged our passions, nor neglected

the praise we owe the Author of our mercies. Why therefore, should we tremble? We leave a world, whose pleasures we are no longer capable of possessing, we have passed through its enjoyments, and have found them vain, we leave it for the happiest of states: and yet the tender tie of parents holds us; we must leave those whom nature obliges us to love: yet let us remember that we leave them to the care of a divine providence, and be thankful that we were not called whilst their minds were yet unformed, or we had conducted them from the budding to the bloom of reason.

If at any time a kind of wish arises which would defer the hour which heaven has allotted for my last, it is when I am surrounded by my family, and observe the looks of tenderness which they gratefully bestow on me; yet sometimes their being present has the opposite effect, and I am apprehensive lest the moment should not arrive till I mourn the loss of a child.

I know not that any thing would give more considerable amusement than our reviewing together our past lives, and recollecting the dangers we have passed from the storms of our passions, when now time has lulled them to rest. It would not be unenterprising, I imagine, to collect the various opinions and ideas we have had of the same object, and mark the progress of the human mind through the different stages of life. Cleanthes, therefore, who enjoys the blessing of health in a more eminent degree than his friend, will hasten to see and give him the greatest satisfaction he can possibly know.

I write this from the grotto which Lucinda's fancy decorated, and where we have passed so many happy hours. Providence has taken care to wean us from the love of life by degrees. Scarce have we reached the ripened age of manhood before we have more friends in the grave than surviving; and from that moment, which is almost the first of serious reflection,

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tion, we begin to perceive the vanity of human happiness. It was the will of Heaven that I should mourn the loss of my Lucinda, and feel the pang of separation, yet not till we had grown old in love, and sweetened the greatest part of our lives with connubial happiness. Since the retrospect part of our lives present us with nothing which should terrify our imagination, let us pass the remaining days which heaven shall allot us in calm serenity, and in resignation to the divine will.

Whenever the destined hour shall come, my Cleanthes, may we sink contented from the world, and in the perfect assurance of eternal happiness.

I am, &c.

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# LETTER X.

*A letter from Bishop Atterbury to his son Obadiah, at Christ-church college in Oxford.*

[Containing some useful hints in regard to writing letters.]

Dear Obby,

I Thank you for your letter, because there are manifest signs in it of your endeavouring to excel yourself, and of consequence to please me. You have succeeded in both respects, and will always succeed, if you think it worth your while to consider what you write, and to whom, and let nothing, tho' of a trifling nature, pass thro' your pen negligently; get but the way of writing correctly and justly. Time and use will teach you to write readily afterwards; not but that too much care may give a stiffness to your style, which ought in all letters, by all means, to be avoided; the turn of them should be always natural and easy, for they are an image of private and familiar conversation. I mention this with respect to the four or five lines of yours, which have an air of poetry, and do therefore naturally resolve themselves into blank verses. I send you your letter

again, that yourself may now make the same observation. But you took the hint of that thought from a poem; and it is no wonder, therefore, that you heightened the phrase a little when you were expressing it. The rest is as it should be; and particularly, there is an air of duty and sincerity, which if it comes from your heart, is the most acceptable present you can make me. With these good qualities, an incorrect letter would please me, and without them the finest thoughts and language will make no lasting impression on me. The great Being says, you know,—*My son, give me thy heart*; implying, that without it all other gifts signify nothing. Let me conjure you, therefore, never to say any thing, either in a letter, or common conversation, that you do not think; but always to let your mind and your words go together on the most trivial occasions. Shelter not the least degree of insincerity under the notion of a compliment, which, as far as it deserves to be practised by a man of probity, is only the most civil and obliging way of saying what you really mean; and whoever employs it otherwise, throws away truth for breeding: I need not tell you how little this character gets by such an exchange.

I say not this as if I suspected that in any part of your letter you intended to write what was proper, without any regard to what was true; for I am resolved to believe that you were in earnest from the beginning to the end of it, as much as I am, when I tell you that I am, Your loving father, &c.

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#### LETTER XI.

*From a young lady in one of the Canary islands, to her sister in England, whom she had never seen; containing a pressing invitation to her to come over, and describing the beauties of the place, in order to prevail on her.*

**M**UST we for ever, my dear sister, converse only at this unhappy distance?—Are we born of  
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the same parents, to be eternal aliens to each other? — I have been told wonders of your wit, ingenuity, and good nature. — Must strangers, or at least very distant kindred, reap all the benefit of these amiable qualities, whilst those who are nearest, and ought, methinks, to be dearest, mourn the want of it? — They say there is a secret sympathy between persons of the same blood, and I am sure I feel it; how is it then with you? — Have you never any of those yearnings, those longings, to see the daughter of your father and your mother, which so powerfully agitate me in my daily musings and my nightly dreams? — If not affection, pity should make you wish to be with a sister, who stands so much in need of your assistance. You know, my father's great affairs suffer him seldom to be with his family. — Death has deprived me of my mother, and devotion of her sister; but she forsakes me only to join herself to her Creator: you have no such plea. And as you are six years older than myself, and of a much superior understanding, it is a kind of duty in you to be with me, to correct the errors of my unexperienced youth, and form my mind by the model of your own. — Believe me, I would be most obedient to your instructions, and love the precepts for the teacher's sake. — What can withhold you from coming to a place where your presence is so ardently desired? — What can you find so pleasing to you in a kingdom rent with internal divisions? — where father against son, and brother against brother, maintain unnatural contest! — A kingdom, where pride, injustice, luxury, and profaneness, are almost universal, and religion become a reproach to the profession! — A kingdom, sinking by swift degrees into misery and contempt, yet infatuated so far as to dote on the cause of their undoing. — At least this is the account we have of it. — Can this be agreeable to a person of you nice and distinguishing taste! — O, my dearest sister! listen to the dictates of reason,



son, of duty, and of nature; all join to call you from that worse than Egypt into the land of Canaan. — Here peace and innocence go hand and hand, and all the graces, all the pleasures, wait upon their steps. — No foreign wars, no homebred jars, no envy, no distrust, disturb the soft serenity of these blissful seats, but all is harmony and love. — Eternal zephyrs watch our morning-walks, bringing ten thousand odours on their wings, and tempt us to the groves from whence they spring. — In troops we wander thro' the jessamine lanes, or sit in orange bowers, where fruits, ripe and in blossom, charm our smell and taste. — Sometimes on mules we take short journeys to Teneriff, and on the foot of that stupendous mount, recline on banks of roses umbrella'd over with spreading myrtles: — then change the scene, and view the spacious vineyards, where huge alcoves of clustering grapes hang pendant over our heads. — Sometimes we roam thro' a long gallery of stately pines, whose loaded boughs presents us every kind of fruit in one. — But there is no describing half the various sweets which nature, with a lavish hand, pours on these isles, which justly have the name of *Fortunate*! nor (I flatter myself) will there be any need of farther arguments, to bring you to us. — My father has just now informed me, that Captain \*\*\* carries his positive orders for your coming, and I may now rest in an assured hope of enjoying the happiness I so long, and so earnestly have wished; yet I am craving still more. — I would fain, methinks imagine, if I could, that with your obedience to our father, some little share of love for me was mingled, and that you will embark with the more readiness, by the thoughts that you will embrace one who has so tender an affection for you, and thinks it the greatest blessing to subscribe herself,

My dear sister,

Your most affectionate and most obedient servant,

MARIA BOYLE.

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## L E T T E R XII.

*From Miss Middleton to Miss Pemberton, giving her the melancholy account of her sister's death.*

Dear Miss Pemberton,

JUST as I was setting out for Worcestershire, in order to follow my sister, who, you know, has been some time there, I received a letter from my aunt, acquainting me that she was taken ill last Friday, and died in two days after.—Yes, that lately so much admired, that splendid beauty, is now reduced to a cold lump of clay,—for ever closed are those once sparkling eyes;—hushed is that voice that gave so much delight;—those limbs which art had ransacked to adorn, have now no other covering than a simple shroud, and in a few days will be confined within the narrow compass of a tomb.—Ah! what is life!—what all the gaudy pride of youth, of pomp, of grandeur! what the vain adoration of a flattering world!—Delusive pleasures,—fleeting nothings, how unworthy are you of the attention of a reasonable being!—You know the gay manner in which we have always lived, and will, no doubt, be surprised to find expressions of this kind fall from my pen;—but, my dear Pemberton, hitherto my life has been a dream; but I am now, thank Heaven, awake.—My sister's fate has roused me from my lethargy of mind, made me see the ends for which I was created, and reflect that there is no time to be lost for their accomplishment.—Who can assure me, that in an hour, a moment, I may not be as she is!—And if so, oh! how unfit, how unprepared to make my audit at the great tribunal!—In what a strange stupidity have I passed fourteen or fifteen years; (for those of my childhood are not to be reckoned.)—I always knew that death was the portion of mortality, yet never took the least care to arm against the terrors of it.—Whenever I went a little journey, I provided myself with all things

things necessary, yet have I got nothing ready for that long, last voyage, I must one day take into another world — What an infatuation to be anxious for the minutest requisites for ease and pleasure, in a dwelling where I proposed to stay a few weeks, or months, perhaps, yet wholly regardless of what was wanting for making my felicity in an eternal situation? Reason, just kindled, shudders at the recollection of that endless train of follies I have been guilty of. — Well might the poor Berinthia feel all their force; — vain, gay, unthinking as myself, I tremble at the bare imagination of those ideas, which her last moments must inspire; for I now faithfully believe, with Mr. Waller, that,

*Leaving the old, both worlds at once they view,  
Who stand upon the threshold of the new.*

Whether it was the suddenness of her fate, or a letter she wrote to me not two hours before her death, I know not, that has made the alteration in me; but of this I am certain, that I can never enough acknowledge the goodness of that divine Power, without whose assistance it could not have been brought about.

I shall make no apology for this melancholy epistle, because I am very sensible that whatever concern you may feel for my sister, it will be greatly alleviated by finding I am become at last a reasonable creature. I inclose you the letter she sent, to the end you may judge with what kind of sentiments she left this world. — Heaven has, I hope, accepted her contrition, and will enable me, as you will find she desires, to be more early in mine.

I am, dear Miss,  
Your most afflicted humble servant,  
MIDDLETON.

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LETTER XIII.

*Inclosed in the foregoing.*

*Miss Middleton's letter to her sister, wrote a few hours before her death, advising her not to defer making the necessary preparations for futurity.*

My dear sister,

**B**Efore this can possibly reach you, the unchanging fiat will be passed upon me, and I shall be either happy or miserable for ever. — None about me pretend to flatter me with the hopes of seeing another morning — Short space to accomplish the mighty work of eternal salvation! — Yet I cannot leave the world without admonishing, — without conjuring you to be more early in preparing for that dreadful hour, you are sure not to escape, and know not how shortly it may arrive. — We have had the same sort of education, — have lived in the same manner, and tho' accounted very like, have resembled each other more in our follies than our faces. — Oh! what a waste of time have we not both been guilty of! To dress well has been our study. — Parade, equipage, and admiration our ambition, — pleasure our avocation, and the mode our god. — How often, alas! have I profaned, in idle chat, that sacred name, by whose merits alone I have hopes to be forgiven? How often have I sat and heard his miracles and sufferings ridiculed by the false wits of the age, without feeling the least emotion at the blasphemy! — Nay, how often have I myself, because I heard others do so, called in question that futurity I now go to prove, and am already convinced of! One moment, methinks I see the blissful seats of *Paradise* unveiled; — I hear ten thousand myriads of myriads of celestial forms tuning their golden harps to songs of praise, to the unutterable name. — The next a scene all black and gloomy, spreads itself before me, whence issue nought but sobs, and groans, and horrid shrieks. — My fluctuating imagination

gination varies the prospect, and involves me in a sad uncertainty of my eternal doom:—On one hand beckoning angels smile upon me, while on the other, the furies stand prepared to seize my fleeting soul.—Methinks I dare not hope, nor will the Rev. Dr. G\*\*\* suffer me to despair;—he comforts me with the promises in holy writ, which to my shame, I was unacquainted with before; but now I feel them balm to my tormented conscience.—Dear, dear sister, I must bid you eternally adieu;—I have discharged my duty in giving you this warning. O! may my death, which you will shortly hear of, give it that weight I wish and pray for; you are the last object of my earthly cares:—I have now done with all below,—shall retire into myself, and devote the few moments allowed me, to the penitence which alone can entitle me to a glorious immortality. I die

Your sincere friend,  
and most affectionate and departing sister,  
BERINTHIA.



#### L E T T E R XIV.

*A letter to Miss W——, advising her to take care of  
her house, &c.*

AS you are a tenant at will in a very handsome genteel house, and are now capable of furnishing it in the politest manner, ruling it by the strictest maxims of œconomy and decorum, permit a friend to give a few cursory hints in an affair of so much importance.

Your building is composed of some of the finest materials I ever saw, and is so much the more liable to discover any flaw or spot that may accidentally touch it.—It is erected to a proper height, a just size, reared on a regular plan, and finished with the most accurate proportion,—On the top stands an eminent

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ment turret, furnished with a room of globular form, which I observe has two crystal windows in the front ; these are so constructed as to be exceeding useful, as they command an extensive prospect, and, if always kept clean and bright, will prove a very great ornament to the house. I advise you not to look through them at every object that passes by ; be sure to shut them soon at night, and you may open them as early as you please in the morning.— On each side I discover a small portal to receive company ; take care they don't always stand open, for then you will be crouded with visitors, and perhaps with many such as you will not like ; let them never be shut against the instructive parent, the advising friend, or the supplicating orphan. —I took notice of one gate in the front, at which all your company goes out ; let that generally be barred close ; be cautious what visitors you let out publicly, lest, if any ill characters be seen coming from it, you draw a scandal upon your house ; it will be necessary, therefore, to lay a strict injunction of vigilance on your two porters, who stand centinels in liveries of the deepest scarlet, just without the ivory palliades. —I have seen some people paint the two pannels, just below the windows ; but I would advise you to the contrary, for your natural colours far exceed all the decorations of art. —This part of the edifice is supported by a pillar of Corinthian marble, whose base is ornamented with two alabaster semi-globes, over which is generally drawn a fine lawn curtain of admirable needle work.

Beneath is the great hall, in which you have a small closet of exquisite workmanship ; this, I suppose, is the place of your secret retirement, open to none but yourself, or some faithful intimate friend. —I advise you to keep this always clean, furnish it well, make it a little library of the best practical authors, and visit it frequently, especially when you return home from church, or leave a circle of acquaintance, which you have met at the tea-table.

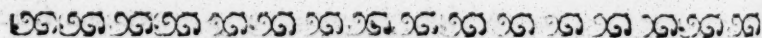


Let the out-side of the hall not appear like a herse hung round with escutcheons, nor like a coach of state, bedaubed with gilt and colourings, but let it be plain, neat, and clean, to convince the world that it is kept more for use than ornament.

You are sensible, Miss, time effaces the beauty, and demolishes the strength of the noblest structure, and therefore will not be surpris'd to find your little tenement subject to the same change. Doubtless, it has often wanted repairs, though you have lived in it no longer, which are plain intimations that the house will one day fall.— You may soon be turned out—the landlord may give you warning, or may not—this is all uncertain—be ever ready to go when called upon, and then you will not be afraid to leave it at the shortest notice.— One thing I would observe too, is, that when you quit the house, no other tenant will inhabit it, but it will lie waste and in ruins; yet the proprietor will some time or other rebuild it for your reception in a more durable manner, with the same materials, but so refined and modified, that it will be liable to no accident or decay; and as it is absolutely necessary that your habitation be new reared in the other place, I heartily wish it may be in a finer country, under a milder climate, and well sheltered from all storms; then will your situation be happy and honourable, and your lease never expire.

Yours, &c.

ROBERT N.



#### LETTER XV.

*From a sensible lady, with a never-failing receipt for a beauty-wash.*

AS you seem so intent on improving the personal charms of your already amiable daughter, I can no longer delay answering your letter.— You would be glad, you say, of a receipt to make a wash; but it must be perfectly innocent. What I recommend, Madam, is truly so, and will greatly illustrate and preserve her complexion.

Pray

Pray let her observe the following rules.

In the morning fair water is to be used as a preparatory; after which she must abstain from all sudden gusts of passion, particularly envy, as that gives the skin a fallow paleness. It may seem trifling to talk of temperance: yet must this be attended to, both in eating and drinking, if she would avoid those pimples, for which the advertised washes are a boasted cure. Instead of rouge, let her use moderate exercise, which will excite a natural bloom in her cheeks not to be imitated by art. Ingenuous candour, and unaffected good-humour, will give an openness to her countenance that will make her universally agreeable. A desire of pleasing will add fire to her eyes, and breathing the morning air at sun-rise will give her lips a vermilion hue. That amiable vivacity, which she now possesses, may be happily heightened and preserved, if she avoids late hours and card-playing, but not otherwise: for the first gives the face a drowsy disagreeable aspect, and the last is the mother of wrinkles. — A white hand is a very desirable ornament; and a hand can never be white unless it be kept clean. Nor is this all; for if the young lady will excel her companions in this respect, she must keep her hands in constant motion, which will occasion the blood to circulate freely, and have a wonderful effect. The motion I would recommend, is working at her needle, brushing up the house, or twirling the distaff. It was this industry in our grandmothers which gave Kneller an opportunity of gratifying posterity with the view of so many fine hands and arms in his incomparable portraits. — A few words more, and I have done. — Let her preserve an unaffected neatness in her apparel: her fortune will permit her to dress elegantly; but her good sense should always prevent her from descending to gaudiness, which strikes the eyes of the ignorant, but disgusts those of true taste and discernment; besides, Madam, your daughter has so many natural charms, that she can have no occasion to wear

Q 2

cloaths

cloaths that will attract all the attention of the multitude. She possesses more beauties than she is acquainted with, which is no small addition to her merit; but how can it be otherwise, when she is your daughter, and has you for an example?

I am, &c.

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## LETTER XVI.

*Domestic rule the province of the wife.*

Madam,

I Must assert, that the right of directing domestic affairs is, by the law of nature in the woman; and that we are perfectly qualified for the exercise of dominion, notwithstanding what has often been said by male coats to the contrary. Those who pretend to direct our bringing up, seem to have destined us to that power which they would afterwards dispute. We are employed in our samplers, or diverting ourselves with our babies; we pass from our mother's nursery to our own, and from imaginary visits to real ones, without fatiguing ourselves with a variety of unnecessary acquirements, on which the men must value themselves. Indeed, which I would condemn too eager a pursuit of, we are taught singing and dancing; but what are these to the drudgery of schools and universities? The business of a family, when thoroughly performed, takes in the whole circle of our time, and affords no room for any thing except innocent relaxations. We are certainly then more likely to understand domestic policy than the men, who have twenty other things to mind. A mere housewife, like a mere scholar, is fit for nothing else, I admit, and will make a man a very unsociable companion. But as some men of great application to their respective professions, have, notwithstanding, a very polite behaviour; so a woman may make the government of her house the principal care, without suffering it to become the principal



pal theme of her discourse; nor do I think it at all necessary, that to establish a character as a manager, her husband should twice or thrice a-week hear her scolding the servants. This is one of the great objections to female government, and our adversaries would fain present it as a thing as necessary to us, as a standing army to the administration. But both may be calumnies, and the mere effects of a desire to get into other folks places. Experience is wholly on our side; for, where-ever the master exceeds his proper sphere, and pretends to give law to the cook-maid as well as the coachman, we observe a great deal of discord and confusion. When a man, who is always a better judge when things are wrong, than of the method of setting them to rights, entrenches on the woman's province, it is the ready way to make the rest of the family despise them both. But when a woman of tolerable good sense is allowed to direct her house without control, all things go well; she prevents even her husband's wishes, the servants know their business, and the whole family live easy and happy. It is with great concern that I perceive our sex, of late, inclined to mind any thing rather than their families, which inclination must have fatal consequences. Can there be any thing more honourable for a woman than the right management of her family? And it may be observed to them, that they must take their choice either to manage their children or servants, or to be managed by them. If liberty is the thing they aim at, they certainly mistake the road. A woman's freedom consists in power, and not in a licence to gad about, which is scandalous even in a girl, and bespeaks a giddiness of soul below compassion. The conduct of the estate or business ought surely to be in the husband; and if he parts with it, it is an act of weakness. The conduct of the house belongs as justly to the wife; and no man ought to marry a woman whom he would not trust with the management of such concerns. Adieu, dear friend! in-

croach not on the province of your husband, but  
continue to be mistress in your own. I am,

Your affectionate friend,

SYLVIA SHARP.

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## L E T T E R XVII.

*From a lady to her acquaintance, on growing old.*

My dear Lucy,

I Have been thinking that *human understanding* is  
no less liable to be unhinged, than the mechanism  
of the *human frame*. The least jar of surprise puts  
it out of tune, and one cannot presently get into  
order again.— We have certainly *passions* of the *mind*,  
as well as *diseases* of the *body*, which we are not aware  
of, till some sudden accident calls them forth; and  
the *one* are no less capable of suspending the *faculties*  
of *reason* for a time, than the *other* are of obstructing  
that *animal fluid*, to the proper circulation of which  
we owe our health and vigour.

I was led into this reflection by catching myself  
in a folly which I shall not be much ashamed of  
confessing, since, on contemplating some passages  
my observation supplies me with, I find the foible  
inherent, in a more or less degree, in the whole  
species of human kind, though few are ingenuous  
enough to acknowledge it.

I was sitting yesterday in my parlour-window,  
looking carelessly on the people as they passed; when  
all at once, a fellow abruptly presented himself be-  
fore me, and cried in a hoarse voice, *Spectacles*,  
*Madam, fine spectacles*; and at the same time thrust a  
pair of those nose-saddles within the sash. You can-  
not imagine, dear Lucy, how I was shocked; I gave  
the man a short answer, and immediately drew down  
the window.— *Good God!* said I to myself, *do I look*  
*old enough to be supposed to want spectacles?* not con-  
sidering that it was the fellow's trade to offer them  
to every body, and that many people younger than  
myself.

myself were obliged to make use of them.—I ran however to my glass, and fancied I perceived what they call the crow's feet appearing at the corners of my eyes.—I looked, and looked again, and the more I did so, the more I thought these cruel marks of time were visible; and now recollecting that my last birth-day brought me into my one and thirtieth year, and that a very few more of them would rank me among the number of the aged, I fell into such a fit of the vapours as I had never before known. Is not this unaccountable?—Where now was my understanding?—where my reason? The little share I have is sufficient to make me know, that whoever lives a great while in this world must grow old, and few of us there are who desire to die young. Why was not this knowledge at hand to make me easy under the common course of nature?

I do assure you, I had grown two or three hours older, before I could bring myself to be reconciled with the apprehensions, that every moment brought me nearer to that so-much dreaded stage of life; but, thank heaven, I got the better of it at last, and laughed at the foolish part my imagination had been acting.

That we all, however, have a natural aversion to gray hairs and wrinkles, cannot be denied; and that to overcome the uneasiness their approach inflicts, requires the utmost exertion of our reason; yet is not this an inconsistency, a kind of absurdity in our habit of thinking?—We ridicule a thousand lesser follies of mankind, yet pass over that which more than all deserves censure, the being ashamed or afraid of attaining what all the world, as well as ourselves, would wish to arrive at.—But we would live for ever if we could, and yet be always young; we would annihilate the depredations of time from fifteen to sixty; and even then not be content perhaps to be thought on our decline.

Were old age terrible to us merely as it is the forerunner of death, or as it is generally attended with infirmities



infirmities which render life a burden, I should not be so much surpris'd; but alas! we see death and diseases seize on youth and strength; no time of life is a security against either.—Nor is it altogether the apprehension of being deprived of what share of beauty nature may have bestowed upon us, that renders it so alarming, since that also may be lost by the small-pox, and a thousand other accidents.—No, it is only the name, not the effects, we so much dread; and I believe most people would rather chuse *deformity* with youth, than *comeliness* with *old age*.

This, and some other propensities of the mind, in my opinion, are sufficient to convince any thinking person of the importance of *human understanding*, and oblige us all to own with the poet, that

“ Reason in man is but a twinkling lamp

“ Of wand’ring life, that wakes and winks by turns;

“ Fooling the follower betwixt shade and shining.”

You will imagine, by my being so serious, that I have not yet got over the fright the man put me into, and indeed I am not sure whether I have or not; but, be that as it will, I have resolution enough to wish from the very bottom of my heart, that you and I may grow old in friendship, and that, whatever effect time may have upon our *persons*, our *minds* may remain as now united; which will be a balance against the mortifications in the power of the old gentleman with the hour-glass, to

My dear Lucy,

Your’s, with the most perfect amity,

HILARIA.



### LETTER XVIII.

*To a lady who had lost her beauty by the small pox.*

My dear Ophelia,

I Received yours, and rejoice too much on your recovery, to be able to condole with you on any alteration.

alteration your late illness has made on you; and indeed, how great so ever it may be, am far from thinking it deserves to be mentioned with that concern you express.—You have encountered death, and foiled him at one of his sharpest weapons; and if you have received some scars, ought to look upon them rather as trophies of victory than blemishes.—What if your complexion has lost some part of its fair enamel, and your features are not altogether so delicate; the less charms your glass present you with, the more you will find in your closet; and, deprived of vain pleasure in contemplating the graces of your outward form, you will have the greater leisure to improve and embellish those which are not so easily impaired.

Let us pretend what we will, it is the ambition of attracting admirers, that renders beauty of so much value to all the young and gay; but, if we consider seriously, we shall find that it is virtue, good sense, sweetness of disposition, and complaisance, of which the girdle of Cytherea should be composed.—The finest face in the world without them, will not long maintain its empire over the heart of a man of understanding, as the poet truly says,

*Beauty soon grows familiar to the eye ;  
Virtue alone has charms that never die.*

Do not think, however, that I am glad to find you are more on a level, than before this accident, with the greatest part of our sex. I confess, the beauties of the *person* greatly contribute to set off and render those of the *mind* conspicuous, and for that reason should lament extremely any defect in the *one*, if I were not certain you had enough of the *other* to engross the whole attention of as many as know you; and that they may every day increase in the lustre of true dignity, is the sincere wish of, my dear Ophelia,

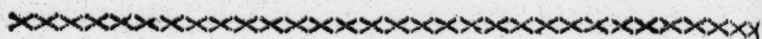
Your's,

SOPHRONIA.

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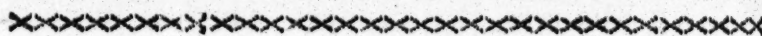


THE COMPLETE  
LETTER-WRITER.



PART IV.

Elegant Letters on various subjects, to  
improve the style and entertain the  
mind, from eminent authors.



LETTER I.

*The following letter, written by Mr. Gay, giving an  
account of two lovers who were struck dead by the  
same flash of lightening, is reckoned a master-piece  
in epistolary descriptive writing.*

Stanton-Harcourt, Aug. 9. 1718.

THE only news you can expect to have from me  
here, is news from Heaven: for I am quite out  
of the world, and there is scarce any thing can reach  
me, except the noise of thunder, which undoubtedly  
you have heard too. We have read in old au-  
thors, of high towers levelled by it to the ground,  
while the humble valleys have escaped. The only  
thing that is proof against it is the laurel, which  
however I take to be no great security to the brains  
of modern authors. But to let you see that the  
contrary to this often happens, I must acquaint you,  
that the highest and most extravagant heap of towers  
in the universe, which is in this neighbourhood,  
stands still undefaced, while a cock of barley in our  
next field has been consumed to ashes. Would to  
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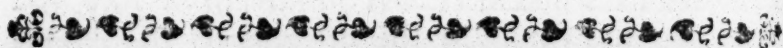
God that this heap of barley had been all that had perished ! But unhappily beneath this little shelter sat two much more constant lovers than ever were found in romance under the shade of a beech tree. John Hewit was a well-set man of about five and twenty : Sarah Drew might be rather called comely than beautiful, and was about the same age. They had passed thro' the various labours of the year together, with the greatest satisfaction ; if she milked, it was his morning and evening care to bring the cows to her hand. It was but last fair that he bought her a present of green silk for her straw hat ; and the posy on her silver ring was of his chusing. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood ; for scandal never affirmed that they had any other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning that he had obtained the consent of her parents, and it was but till the next week that they were to wait to be happy. Perhaps in the intervals of their work they were now talking of their wedding cloaths, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and field-flowers to her complexion, to chuse her a knot for the wedding-day. While they were thus busied (it was on the last of July, between two and three in the afternoon) the clouds grew black, and such a storm of lightening and thunder ensued, that all the labourers made the best of their way to what shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened, and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley ; John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps, the better to secure her from the storm. Immediately there was heard so loud a crack, as if heaven had split asunder ; every one was solicitous for the safety of his neighbour, and called to one another throughout the field. No answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay ; they perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then espied this faithful pair. John with one arm about Sarah's neck,

neck, and the other held over her, as if to screen her from the lightning. They were both struck in this tender posture. Sarah's left eye-brow was singed, and there appeared a black spot on her breast; her lover was all over black, but not the least signs of life were found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions, they were conveyed to the town, and the next day interred in Stanton-Harcourt church-yard. My Lord Harcourt, at Mr. Pope's and my request, has caused a stone to be placed over them, upon condition that we should furnish the epitaph: which is as follows:

*When eastern lovers feed the funeral fire,  
On the same pile the faithful pair expire;  
Here pitying heav'n that virtue mutual found,  
And blasted both, that it might neither wound.  
Heart's so sincere th' Almighty saw well pleas'd,  
Sent his own lightning, and the victims seiz'd.*

But my Lord is apprehensive the country-people will not understand this; and Mr. Pope says he will make one with something of scripture in it, and with as little poetry as Hopkins and Sternhold.

I am, &c.



## LETTER II.

*The three following letters were wrote by a young lady of a good family, and very genteelly bred. (but afterwards reduced), to a gentleman going abroad, under whose care and protection she was desirous of retiring in the capacity of a house-keeper, from the frowns of the world.*

S I R,

**N**O circumstance is more shocking than that of being obliged to strangers for relief; and however conscious I may be of my own innocence and well-meaning, the presumption of addressing a gentleman in this manner, may be a sufficient reason to prevent my receiving such a share of credit, as were

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I known to you, I might with justice pretend to. I have had the misfortune to receive an education greatly above the rank that heaven has allotted me, and I now, too soon, at the age of eighteen, have struggled through more difficulties than you would chuse to be acquainted with; and it would but ill become me, to shock the man to whom I wish to be obliged. It is now some time since I formed the design to leave England, and withdraw myself from the acquaintance of those that have known me in a higher state. I can be content in a decent retirement, and shall endeavour to do my duty in the station I pretend to. Chance has directed me to you, and it is without a blush (and surely no one should be ashamed of so innocent a boldness) that I offer myself to attend you abroad in the quality of a housekeeper. My character and story you shall be acquainted with; the first will be no discredit to me, and the latter perhaps may raise a compassion in you, that may be serviceable to me. If you approve my design, or have any curiosity to hear more, I would beg the favour of you to advertise that the letter directed to Tom's was received, and I will then venture to trouble you again.



L E T T E R III.

S I R,

I Have so few obligations to the world, that I am at times surpris'd at myself to find that the idea of gratitude shall be known to me, and yet I feel a thankfulness in me, for the notice you have taken of my (perhaps indiscreet) application. A thousand distracting thoughts have got the better of my judgment; and though I know where you live, and am fully convinced that you would scorn to mean me an injury, yet a certain prejudice of education forbids me to pursue what I designed, and I shall now solicit nothing more from you than a pardon for having

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raised your expectation, and engaged your curiosity to be acquainted with a story that a womanish pride will perhaps for ever prevent being known. I flatter'd myself when I wrote before, that I had been mistress of more resolution; but my fears startle me, and I am so convinced of the ill method I have taken to be acquainted with you, (and your knowledge of the world must necessarily encourage such suspicions of me,) that no temptation can now be sufficient to make me discover myself. I am ashamed of what has happened, and I feel a resentment to myself, for having dared to alarm your good-nature with fears for an unfortunate young women. I will flatter myself you feel for me; and the tenderness and humanity that I believe you master of, shall at least be this far satisfied, that I will hereafter, if fortune has any favours to bestow on me, give you the satisfaction of knowing who I am, and by what accident I thought of applying to you. Adieu! *Je me flatte que le bon Dieu aura pitié de mon innocence, car je n'ai jamais beaucoup fait de mal.*



## L E T T E R IV.

S I R,

**W**ERE I in the least inclined to discover myself, so immediate an answer to your advertisement might in justice be esteemed a forwardness; but as my resolution is fixed, it will bear a better interpretation, and ought to be looked on as a decent regard for the person that seems to bear a share in my misfortunes. You may with great reason reproach me for having drawn you into so idle a correspondence; and the persuasion I have of your goodness and humanity, are to me strong testimonials that your inquiry is not the effect of a giddy or ill-meaning curiosity, but proceeds from the true principles of virtue, and from a design of giving me all the assistance I can wish. I must own that necessity first tempted

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tempted me to apply; and though I am determined to stop short, and give a check to my ill-judged scheme, yet I will ever encourage myself in a thankfulness to you, and compliment my own judgment for having so easily discovered the perfections of so amiable a character. My pen seems pleased with the office of writing to you, and I am now prepared to run greater lengths than patience might excuse. We are all fond of doing what is most pleasing to us, and it is a flattering of my vanity in the supposition of my having engaged your good wishes. My story, which is full of a variety of shocking circumstances and distress, added to a too sensible feeling, has so furnished me with expressions, that I should conceive a hatred to myself, were I capable of a farther attempt to make an impression on you. Adieu! I shall for ever love and honour your generous design, and will always have this share of merit with you, and no necessity nor other unfortunate circumstance shall again force me to give an alarm to your humanity, or expose me to myself for having dared to raise your curiosity to the knowledge of that, which charity for every well-meaning person commands me to conceal.

*Vous allez vers la reputation vers le credit, et moi j'en reviens.*



## LETTER V.

*The following most charming and affectionate letter, universally admired, was written by Mr. Pope, to the bishop of Rochester, about a month before his banishment.*

ONCE more I write to you, as I promised, and this once I fear will be the last; the curtain will soon be drawn between my friend and me, and nothing left but to wish you a long good night. May you enjoy a state of repose in this life, not unlike that sleep of the soul which some have believed is to

succeed it, where we lie utterly forgetful of that world from which we are gone, and repining for that to which we are to go. If you retain any memory of the past, let it only image to you what has pleased you best; sometimes present a dream of an absent friend, or bring you back an agreeable conversation. Put upon the whole, I hope you will think less of the time past than of the future; as the former has been less kind to you than the latter infallibly will be. Do not envy the world your studies; they will tend to the benefit of man, against whom you can have no complaint, I mean of all posterity: And perhaps at your time of life nothing else is worth your care. What is every year of a wise man's life but a censure or critic on the past? Those whose date is the shortest, live long enough to laugh at one half of it. The boy despises the infant, the man the boy, the philosopher both, and the Christian all. You may now begin to think your manhood was too much a puerility; and you will never suffer your age to be but a second infancy. The toys and baubles of your childhood are hardly now more below you, than those toys of our riper and our declining years, the drums and rattles of ambition, and the dirt and bubbles of avarice. At this time, when you are cut off from a little society, and made a citizen of the world at large, you should bend your talents not to serve a party, or a few, but all mankind. Your genius should mount above that mist, in which its participation and neighbourhood with earth hath long involved it. To shine abroad and to heaven, ought to be the business and the glory of your present situation. Remember it was at such a time that the greatest lights of antiquity dazzled and blazed the most; in their retreat, in their exile, or in their death. But why do I talk of dazzling or blazing? it was then that they did good, that they gave light, and that they became guides to mankind.

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and such I therefore hope will be yours. Resentment indeed may remain, perhaps cannot be quite extinguished, in the noblest minds: but revenge will never harbour there. Higher principles than those of the first, and better principles than those of the latter, will infallibly influence men whose thoughts and whose hearts are enlarged, and cause them to prefer the whole to any part of mankind, especially to so small a part as one's single self.

Believe me, my Lord, I look upon you as a spirit entered into another life, as one just upon the edge of immortality, where the passions and affections must be much more exalted, and where you ought to despise all little views, and all mean retrospects. Nothing is worth your looking back; and therefore look forward, and make (as you can) the world look after you; but take care that it be not with pity, but with esteem and admiration.

I am, with the greatest sincerity, and passion for your fame as well as happiness, Your's, &c.



# LETTER VI.

*To Lady — from Mr. Pope, on witty and serious letters.*

Madam,

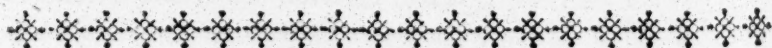
I AM not at all concerned to think that this letter may be less entertaining than some I have sent: I know you are a friend that will think a kind letter as good as a diverting one. He that gives you his mirth, makes a much less present than he that gives you his heart; and true friends would rather see such thoughts as they communicate only to one another, than what they squander about to all the world. They who can set a right value on any thing, will prize one tender, well-meant word, above all that ever made them laugh in their lives. If I did not think so of you, I should never have taken much pains to endeavour to please you, by writing, or any

thing else. Wit, I am sure, I want, at least in the degree that I see others have it, who would at all seasons alike be entertaining; but I would willingly have some qualities that may be (at some seasons) of more comfort to myself, and of more service to my friends. I would cut off my own head, if it had nothing better than wit in it; and tear out my own heart, if it had no better disposition than to laugh only myself, and laugh at all my neighbours.

I know you will think it an agreeable thing to hear that I have done a great deal of Homer. If it be tolerable, the world may thank you for it: for if I could have seen you every day, and imagined my company could have every day pleased you, I should scarce have thought it worth my while to please the world. How many verses could I gladly have left unfinished, and turned into it, for people to say what they would of, had I been permitted to pass all those hours more pleasingly? Whatever some may think, fame is a thing I am much less covetous of than your friendship; for that, I hope, will last all my life; the other I cannot answer for. What if they would both grow greater after my death? Alas! they would both be of no advantage to me. Therefore think upon it, and love me as well as ever you can, while I live.

Now I talk of fame, I send you my Temple of Fame, which is just come out: but my sentiments about it you will see better by this epigram.

*What's fame with men, by custom of the nation,  
Is call'd in women only reputation:  
About them both why keep we such a pother?  
Part you with one, and I'll renounce the other:*



## LETTER VII.

*To the Hon. Mrs. H——, from Mr. Pope.*

Madam,

ALL the pleasure or use of familiar letters, is, to give us the assurance of a friend's welfare; at least

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least it is all I know, who am a mortal enemy and despiser of what they call fine letters. In this view, I promise you, it will always be a satisfaction to me to write letters and to receive them from you; because I unfeignedly have your good at my heart, and am that thing which many people make only a subject to display their fine sentiments upon, a friend; which is a character which admits of little to be said, till something may be done. Now let me fairly tell you, I do not like your style: it is very pretty, therefore I don't like it; and if you write as well as Voiture, I would not give a farthing for such letters, unless I were to sell them to be printed. Methinks I have lost the Mrs. L\*\*\* I formerly knew, who writ and talked like other people, (and sometimes better.) You must allow me to say, you have not said a sensible thing in all your letter, except where you speak of shewing kindness, and expecting it in return: but the addition you make about your being but two and twenty, is again in the style of wit and abomination. To shew you how very unsatisfactorily you wrote, in all your letters you have never told me how you do. Indeed I see it was absolutely necessary for me to write to you, before you continue to take more notice of me, for I ought to tell you what you are to expect; that is to say, kindness, which I never failed (I hope) to return; and not wit, which if I want, I am not much concerned, because judgment is a better thing; and if I had, I would make use of it, rather to play upon those I despised, than to trifle with those I loved. You see, in short, after what manner you may most agreeably write to me. Tell me you are my friend, and you can be no more at a loss about that article. As I have opened my mind upon this to you, it may also serve for Mr. H——, who will see by it, what manner of letters he must expect if he corresponds with me. As I am too seriously your's and his servant, to put turns upon you instead of good wishes, so in return I should have nothing but honest plain How-do-ye's,  
and



and Pray remember-me's; which not being fit to be shewn to any body for wit, may be a proof we correspond only for ourselves, in mere friendliness; as doth, God is my witness,

Your very, &c.



### L E T T E R VIII.

*From Mr. Pope to Mr. Steele, on sickness and dying young.*

**Y**OU formerly observed to me, that nothing made a more ridiculous figure in a man's life, than the disparity we often find in him sick and well: thus one of an unfortunate constitution is perpetually exhibiting a miserable example of the weakness of his mind, and of his body in their turns. I have had frequent opportunities of late to consider myself in these different views and I hope have received some advantage by it, if what Waller says be true, that

*The soul's dark cottage, batter'd and decay'd,*

*Lets in new light thro' chinks that time has made.*

Then surely, sickness contributing no less than old age to the shaking down this scaffolding of the body, may discover the inward structure more plainly. Sickness is a sort of early old age: it teaches us a diffidence in our earthly state, and inspires us with the thoughts of a future, better than a thousand volumes of philosophers and divines; it gives so warning a concussion to those props of our vanity, our strength and youth, that we then think of fortifying ourselves within, when there is so little dependence upon our out-works. Youth, at the very best, is but a betrayer of human life in a gentler and smoother manner than age: it is like a stream that nourishes a plant upon a bank, and causes it to flourish and blossom to the sight, but at the same time it is undermining it at the root in secret. My  
youth

youth has dealt more fairly and openly with me; it has afforded several prospects of my danger, and given me an advantage not very common to young men, that the attractions of the world have not dazzled me very much; and I begin where most people end, with a full conviction of the emptiness of all sorts of ambition, and the unsatisfactory nature of all human pleasure. When a smart fit of sickness tells me this scurvy tenement of my body will fall in a little time, I am even as unconcerned as was that honest Hibernian, who being in bed in the great storm, some years ago, and told the house would tumble over his head, made answer, "What care I for the house? I am only a lodger." I fancy it is the best time to die when one is in the best humour; and so excessively weak as I now am, I may say with conscience, that I am not at all uneasy at the thought that many men, whom I had never any esteem for, are likely to enjoy this world after me. When I reflect what an inconsiderable little atom every single man is, with respect to the whole creation, methinks it is a shame to be concerned at the removal of such a trivial animal as I am. The morning after my exit, the sun will rise as bright as ever, the flowers smell as sweet, the plants spring as green, the world will proceed in its old course, people will laugh as heartily, and marry as fast as they used to do. The memory of man (as it is elegantly expressed in the book of Wisdom) passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but one day. There are reasons enough in the fourth chapter of the same book to make any young man contented with the prospect of death. *For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, or is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the grey hair to men, and an unspotted life is old age. He was taken away speedily lest wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul, &c.*

I am your's, &c.

L E T-

## L E T T E R IX.

From her LOOKING-GLASS.

*To the beautiful Angelica.*

Madam,

**I** Have enjoyed the honour of serving your Ladyship some years ; during which time, as you have been pleased to favour me with evident marks of your esteem, and a familiarity that none of your other utensils can boast of, tho' many of them my betters by far ; as therefore I have shewn you to yourself so often, and been so happy always to have my fidelity approved of by your Ladyship, I hope you will pardon my boldness, in taking this method to discover to you some failings in yourself, which my surface cannot properly represent. If I may presume to say so, Madam, you consult me much too often ; and I am confident it would be better for you, if you was to be a greater stranger to me. How many thousand times must you be told that you are handsome ? — I assure you of it every day ; but you will not be satisfied, unless I tell you so every hour, nay, almost every moment. — I cannot lie ; your person is exceeding amiable ; but I must, at the same time, inform your Ladyship with my usual sincerity, that you would be infinitely more agreeable, if you did not think so. Consider, Madam, I beseech you, that if you come to me ten thousand times a-day, I cannot make you a bit the better, or the handsomer : but shall certainly destroy one of the finest ornaments of beauty, by rendering you too well acquainted with your own perfections. Whenever you stand before me, with all your charms set forth to the best advantage, I perceive you are apt to view yourself with too great pleasure, and grow proud and conceited of your own beauty ; which, in time, will make other people despise and ridicule you ; and therefore I honestly and ingeniously entreat you, to avoid my company ; for, Madam, I must confess,

that



that the worst enemy the fair ones have, cannot do them so much prejudice as I their chief favourite. It grieves me to the heart to find it so, and often puzzles me extremely to account for their fondness of me, when I so continually do them mischief.—Whether it be, as a witty gentleman once said of me, from my talent of casting reflections;—or whether it be from the large quantity of quicksilver which belongs to me, and without which I am useless as well as innocent; for, as the learned observe, Madam, mercury is highly prejudicial to your sex, either where there is too much of it in the composition of a fair lady, or when it is used externally as an help to beauty: As, in the former case it is generally the cause of extensive levity, so in the latter it is always observed to hurt the eyes, and deface those charms which it is designed to assist and improve:—Or whether my gaily gilded frame is too apt to infect the mind of the beholder with vanity:—Or lastly, whether it be from the brittleness of my other materials, which, by a kind of sympathy, affect people who are too frequently conversant with me.—From whatever cause it proceeds, a lady who has a fine face, might almost as well fall into the small-pox, as to be often in my company. How many charming creatures have I spoiled, and made beauty the greatest misfortune that could befall them!—I cannot think on it without concern;—why am I fated to be thus unlucky, and injure those the most that love me best?—Alas! why was I made a looking-glass! Was it my desire to be covered with silver, and inclosed in a frame of gold!—Did I aspire to be fixed in this honourable place, and become a lady's favourite!—Oh! that I had been some meaner piece of furniture, less respected, and less mischievous. Keep off, dear Madam, I beseech you, from an unhappy thing, which destiny makes pernicious to the loveliest creature under heaven, or I shall soon infect you with the worse disease incident to beauty; and that is vanity.—I am, it is true, an  
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useful servant, if employed only when I ought to be, which is seldom; but if a lady grows so fond of me, that she runs to ask my opinion of every look; if she consults me forty times for once that she goes to her Prayer-book or Bible, I shall certainly prove much more hurtful to her than age or ugliness. I beg, Madam, that you will interpret what your poor servant says, to proceed wholly from respect and love for you.—The tender regard I have for your Ladyship, together with some symptoms I lately have discovered, make me fearful for you.—I dread the apprehension of bringing contempt on so good a mistress, and would not for the world be the occasion of your losing any one grace of so fine a woman:—No! rather let me be broken into a thousand pieces! I am not without fear of giving offence by the freedom I have taken; but though you banish me your presence, I cannot forbear speaking in a case where your Ladyship's good seems so much concerned; and, indeed, if what I dread should come to pass, it would be better for us to part for ever.—Better for you to be without my service, than suffer by it; and better for me to lose my lady, and be thrown into a corner, than remain where I am, and be accessory and instrumental in spoiling as much sweetness and beauty as ever looking-glass had the happiness to shew. I am, Madam, with the most dutiful respect,

Your most faithful and devoted humble servant,

PARLOUR LOOKING-GLASS.



## LETTER X.

*From Hortensius, to his friend Palemon, giving him an account of his happiness in retirement.*

I Write this while Cleora is angling by my side, under the shade of a spreading elm that hangs over the banks of the river. A nightingale, more harmonious even than Strada's, is serenading us from

from a hawthorn bush, which smiles with all the gaiety of youth and beauty ; while

———Gentle gales,  
*Fanning their odorif'rous wings, disperse  
 Native perfumes, and whisper whence they stole  
 Those balmy spoils.* MILTON.

While I am thus enjoying the innocent luxury of this vernal delight, I look back upon these scenes of turbulence wherein I was engaged, with more than ordinary distaste, and despise myself for ever having entertained so mean a thought as to be rich and great. One of our monarchs used to say, " That he " looked upon those to be the happiest men in the " nation, whose fortune had placed them in the " country above a high-constable, and below the " trouble of a justice of peace." It is in a mediocrity of this happy kind that I here pass my life, with a fortune far above the necessity of engaging in the drudgery of business, and with desires much too humble to have any relish for the splendid baits of ambition. You must not, however, imagine that I affect the Stoic, or pretend to have eradicated all my passions. The sum of my philosophy amounts to no more, than to cherish none but such as I may easily and innocently gratify, and to banish all the rest as so many bold intruders upon my repose. I endeavour to practise the maxim of a French poet, by considering every thing that is not within my possession as not worth having. Is it impossible, Palemon, to reconcile you to these unambitious sentiments, and to lower your flight to the humble level of genuine happiness? Let me, at least, prevail with you to spare a day or two from the *certamina divitiarum*, (as Horace, I think, calls them,) from those splendid contests in which you are engaged, just to take a view of the sort of life we lead in the country. If there is any thing wanted to complete the happiness I here find, it is, that you are so seldom a witness to it. Adieu !



## L E T T E R X I.

*From a gentleman to his son just arrived from Paris, against servile complaisance and talkativeness; with some directions how to behave politely in company.*

Dear Tom,

There is something in your behaviour since your return from Paris that displeases me, and I must frankly tell you, that I don't think you are at all benefited by travelling. You have, by keeping company with coxcombs, or by mistaking ceremony for politeness, contracted a habit of not only talking much, and in a very frothy trifling manner, but of sacrificing every thing to compliment. Even your sincerity is offered up to ceremony; and you think yourself obliged, in point of good manners, to agree like Polonius in the play, with every thing that is said, whether right or wrong. You don't want understanding, Tom; nor are you without a good share of learning: And yet that eternal simper, that cringe and obsequiousness, render both suspected, and tire all your acquaintance, who (I am told) laugh at your behaviour, and speak of this behind your back, though they have not friendship enough to confess it to your face. But your father who loves you sincerely, and who considers you as part of himself, can never see you do any thing that may tend to your disadvantage, without warning you of the consequence; for that father must have a very bad heart, or a very bad head indeed, who does not inform his son of his faults. Yours is not an error of disposition, but of judgment, and therefore it may be easily rectified. You, I know, my dear Tom, intend it for civility and politeness; but you are mistaken. Forced and affected compliments are the reverse. Politeness is ever attended with ease and freedom, and despises every thing that is unnatural. Besides, this cringing and fawning render your sincerity suspected. Those who make large professions to

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every body, are esteemed by no body. It is all considered as froth, and their friendship is supposed to be as trifling, insipid, and troublesome, as their conversation. Cast off, therefore, my dear Tom, this sort of behaviour, and put on one that is more manly, and consistent with the character of your family, who were always esteemed for their openness, freedom, and sincerity, which intitles a man to more respect, than all the fine speeches and low bows in the world. Not that I would have you entirely disregard what you brought from the dancing school. A proper deportment is necessary, and even a little ceremony may be consistent with politeness and good manners; it is the excess that makes it blameable. Look at Mr. Montague, for in this case one example is better than ten precepts; he is esteemed an accomplished gentleman, every one is pleased with his behaviour, all are charmed with his conversation; and the means he pursued to attain this art of pleasing universally are these:

He takes care to keep none but good company, (for by his company he is sensible that he shall be known and distinguished); among such his ears are ever open to receive instruction, for he considers, that a silent young man generally makes a wise old one. He attends to every body, and speaks but little, and that not till he has heard and collected the opinions of the whole company; well knowing, that he shall profit more by hearing, than speaking on any subject; and that, by this means, he not only fathoms the capacities of the company, but also gratifies, as it were, and obliges each person, by giving him an opportunity to talk; and especially when with proper questions he introduces such subjects as each man can speak to with propriety and judgment. This he does with wonderful dexterity, and offers every one an occasion of displaying his talents; for he knows that in order to keep up an universal good humour, every man should be pleased with himself

as well as with his company. And pray, what pleases a man more, than to have an opportunity of letting the circle know that he is somebody? How unlike him are those, who having seen nothing of the world, expose themselves to contempt and ridicule, by impertinently giving their opinion of things they do not understand? What Mr. Montague says is always to the purpose, is properly addressed, and every body hears him with satisfaction; for though he is young in years, he is old in experience and understanding. When he speaks, it is always with a becoming ease and freedom. He has resolution enough to defend and support the truth; but always delivers his sentiments in such a manner, that it may not appear like dictating to the company; and when he has done, he hears (let them differ from him ever so much) with patience, complacency and temper. In short, Tom, excuses of ceremony will never gain a man friends, but impertinent babbling will undoubtedly create him enemies: for conversation is a banquet, which every man is entitled to a share of, who is present; and why should any one expect to have the whole feast to himself? Besides the very end of conversation, which is improvement, is thereby destroyed; for he who always talks has no time to hear, and consequently, can reap no benefit from what is said in company. Another vice in conversation (if I may be allowed that expression) I would caution you against, and that is talking obscenely; which is not only a mark of a depraved mind, but of low breeding, and is never encouraged but in the company of fools; since, as my Lord Roscommon justly observes,

*Immodest words admit of no defence,  
For want of decency is want of sense.*

I am, dear son,  
Your truly affectionate father.

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## L E T T E R XII.

*The following letter was written to the Dean of Waterford by a widower, the father of six children, under the fictitious name of Elzevir.——The design of it was to invite the Dean and his company to supper, particularly Miss Elisabeth Marshal, a young lady about 18,—and whose fortune was 30,000 l. who was lodged in the Dean's study, he having much company at that time.*

Rev. SIR,

I AM told there is a book which lies in your study in sheets; and all who have seen it, admire that it should remain so long unbound: I think it is called Marshall's Epithalamium, or some such name; but least I should be mistaken in the title, I will describe it as well as I can.

It is a fair and beautiful manuscript, the ink very black and shining on the whitest virgin vellum that can be imagined; the characters are so nice and delicate as to discover it to be the work of some masterly hand; and there is such a symmetry and exact proportion in all its parts, and the features (if I may so call them) are so just and true, that it puts the reader often to a stand in admiring the beauties of them.

The book has an additional ornament, which it did not want, all the margin being flourished with gold; but that which commends it more is, that though it has been written full eighteen years, as I have been informed, yet it is not sullied nor stained; insomuch that one would think it was never once turned over by any man.

The volume of itself does not appear to be of any great bulk, and yet I understand it has been valued at 30,000 l.

It is a pity so valuable a piece should ever be lost; and the way to prevent this, is by increasing the copies of it. If the author will give consent, and you will license it, I will immediately put it into the press. I have all the necessary apparatus for the purpose, and

and a curious set of letters, that were never used but in the impression of one book, and of this too, no more than half a dozen copies: so that you must imagine they are never the worse for wearing. For my part, I will spare no pains to embellish and adorn the whole with the most natural and lively figures; and I shall not despair of producing an edition as beautiful in the eyes of men as the dear original is at present in mine.— Methinks I could read it with pleasure night and day.

If therefore you will do me the favour to let me have your company this evening, and bring this incomparable piece along with you, it will add to the entertainment of every one, but particularly of him, who is always with great respect,

Rev. SIR,

Your most obedient servant and faithful friend,

EL ZE VIR.

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### L E T T E R   X I I I .

*A letter of consolation on the death of a friend.*

I Should never have believed, Madam, that one of your letters could have afflicted me, how bad news soever it had brought me. The bare sight of your writing seemed to me a remedy against every evil that I could imagine; but I acknowledge to you, it is an extreme grief to me that I have been informed of the loss we have had. Our friend was valuable in every respect; she was beautiful, tender, generous, witty, and of so just a judgment, that she valued you above every thing in the world. She had over and above in dying, the only good quality which she wanted during her life; that is, she bore with resolution a thing, the bare name of which had made her terrible. She accompanied this greatness of soul with so truly a Christian piety, that I think we ought not to mourn for her. It is loving her  
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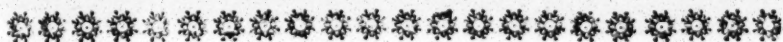
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with too selfish an affection to be sorrowful when she leaves us in order to be better, and when she goes to enjoy in the other world a repose which she could never find in this. I shall endeavour to make advantage of the exhortation you gave me to follow so good an example, and it will not be the first time that you have made me a better man. The troubles I have hitherto had will not ill assist your admonitions; for I think, few things contribute more to make us die without reluctance, than to have no pleasure in life: Not that I should be very glad to finish my career too hastily, seeing that you must return soon. You may guess whether it be easy for me to renounce the advantage of seeing you again, and of protesting to you to what a degree I am, &c.



## L E T T E R XIV.

*From \*\*\* to Cleora, on the pleasures of retirement.*

Madam,

**I**T is certainly better for yourself, and more for the security of mankind, that you should live in some rural abode, than appear in the world; such persons as you are fatal to the public tranquillity, and do mischief without ever designing it: but I must own, when belles and beaux retire to country-shades for the sake of heavenly contemplation, the world will be well reformed. A hermit's life might be tolerable, while the serious hours are divided between Hyde-Park and the opera: but a more distant retreat, in the full pride of your charms and youth, would be very extraordinary. To be convinced by so early experience, that mankind are only amused with dreams and fantastic appearances, must proceed from a superior degree of virtue and good sense. After a thousand convictions of the vanity of other pursuits, how few know the emphasis of these few lines:

*Sweet*



*Sweet solitude ! when life's gay hour's are past,  
 Howe'er we range, in thee we fix at last.  
 Toss'd thro' tempestuous seas, (the voyage now o'er),  
 Pale we look back, and bless the friendly shore.  
 Our own strict judges, our past life we scan,  
 And ask if virtue has enlarg'd the span ;  
 If bright the prospect, we the grave defy,  
 Trust future ages, and contented die.* TICKEL.

Nothing, perhaps, is more terrible to the imagination than an absolute solitude ; yet I must own such a retreat as disengages the mind from those interests and passions which mankind generally pursue, appears to me the most certain way to happiness : quietly to withdraw from the croud, and leave the gay and ambitious to divide the honours and pleasures of the world, without being a rival or competitor in any of these advantages, must leave a person in perfect and unenvied repose.

Without any apology, I am going to talk to myself ; and what follows, may be properly called a digression.

Let me lose the remembrance of this busy world, and hear no more of its distracting tumults ! Ye vain grandeurs of the earth ! ye perishing riches and fantastic pleasures ! what are your proudest boasts ? Can you yield undecaying delights, joys becoming the dignity of reason, and the capacities of an immortal mind ? Ask the happy spirits above, at what price they value their enjoyments ? ask them, if the whole creation should purchase one moment's interval of their bliss ? No :—one beam of celestial light obscures, and casts a reproach on all the beauty this world can boast.

This is talking in buskins, you will think ; and, indeed, I may resign crowns and sceptres, and give up the grandeurs of the world, with as much imaginary triumph, as a hero might fight battles, and conquer armies, in a dream.

In the height of this romantic insult, I am,

Madam,

Your most obliged humble servant.

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## L E T T E R X V.

*In the style of a lady, by Mr. Pope.*

Pray what is your opinion of fate? for I must confess, I am one of those that believe in fate and predestination.—No, I cannot go so far as that; but I own, I am of opinion one's stars may incline, though not compel one; and that is a sort of free-will; for we may be able to resist inclination, but not compulsion.

Do not you think they have got into the most preposterous fashion this winter that ever was, of flouncing the petticoat so very deep, that it looks like an entire coat of lutestring?

It is a little cool indeed for this time of year, but then, my dear, you will allow it has an extreme clean pretty look.

Ay, so has my muslin apron; but I would not chuse to make it a winter suit of cloaths.

Well, now I will swear, child, you have put me in mind of a very pretty dress; let me die if I do not think a muslin flounce made very full, would give one a very agreeable flirtation-air.

Well, I swear it would be charming! and I should like it of all things—Do you think there are any such thing as spirits?

Do you believe there is any such place as the Elysian fields! O gad, that would be charming! I wish I were to go to the Elysian fields when I die, and then I should not care if I were to leave the world to-morrow: but is one to meet there with what one has lov'd most in this world?

Now you must tell me this positively. To be sure you can, or what do I correspond with you for, if you will not tell me all? you know I abominate reserve.

L E T-

## L E T T E R XVI.

*To Mrs. Rowe, on the vanity of all sublunary enjoyments.*

PEOPLE seem at present more busily employed in preparing for the King's birth-day, than for their own last; and appear to be in greater anxiety for a seat in the dancing room, than for a seat in paradise.

I was last night with —; a barge of music followed us; but in the midst of this gaiety your letter was not the only thing that put me in mind of mortality; I had such a violent pain in my head, that neither the wit of the company, the softness of the music, nor the beauty of the evening, could give me any sincere delight.—If pleasure be the lot of man, it must be in something beyond the grave; for on this side, constant experience tells us all is vanity.

But this confession has hardly any influence on human conduct; for people in a high rank must often act against their reason to avoid being thought unfashionable; and for fear of being thought mad by the modish world, must act in a manner which they are sensible is being truly so, to be in vogue with their polite contemporaries.

I cannot forbear thinking with myself, that if a being, endued with reason and a capacity of judging, (an inhabitant of another planet, and an utter stranger to our nature), could take a view of our actions, he would be at a loss what to imagine we were; and, had he no informer, but was to judge by our conduct, he would certainly either imagine that we were a species who were insured always to live in the world we now inhabit; or else, that after enjoying ourselves here as long as we could, we were to be insensible for ever, without the least expectation of a future judgment, punishment, or reward.

You would hardly make an apology for desiring me to write to you, if you knew how much pleasure the injunction gives.

Your's unalterably,

CLEORA.

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L E T T E R X V I I.

*From Mr. Locke, directed thus:*

*For Anthony Collins, Esq; to be delivered to him after  
my decease.*

Dear Sir,

**B**Y my will you will see that I had some kindness  
for \*\*\*. And I know no better way to take care  
of him than to put him, and what I designed for  
him, into your hands and management. The know-  
ledge I have of your virtue of all kinds, secures the  
trust which, by your permission, I have placed in  
you; and the peculiar love and esteem I have ob-  
served in the young man for you, will dispose him  
to be ruled and influenced by you; so that of that  
I need say nothing. But there is one thing, which  
it is necessary for me to recommend to your especial  
care and memory \*\*\*

May you live long and happy, in the enjoyment of  
health, freedom, content, and all those blessings,  
which Providence has bestowed on you, and your vir-  
tue entitles you to. I know you loved me living,  
and will preserve my memory, now I am dead. All  
the use to be made of it is, that this life is a scene of  
vanity, that soon passes away; and affords no solid  
satisfaction, but in the consciousness of doing well,  
and in the hopes of another life. This is what I can  
say upon experience, and what you will find to be  
true, when you come to make up the account. A-  
dieu: I leave my best wishes with you.

JOHN LOCKE.

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L E T T E R X V I I I.

*To C L E O R A.*

August 11. 1756.

**T**H O' it is but a few hours since I parted from my  
Cleora, yet I have already, you see, taken up  
my pen to write to you. You must not expect,  
however,

however, in this, or in any of my future letters, that I say fine things to you, since I only intend to tell you true ones. My heart is too full to be regular, and too sincere to be ceremonious. I have changed the manner, not the style, of my former conversation; and I write to you, as I used to talk to you, without form or art. Tell me then, with the same undissembled sincerity, what effect this absence has upon your usual cheerfulness? As I will honestly confess, on my own part, that I am too interested to wish a circumstance, so little consistent with my repose, should be altogether reconcileable to yours. I have attempted, however, to pursue your advice, and divert myself by the subject you recommended to my thoughts: but it is impossible, I perceive, to turn off the mind at once from an object which it has long dwelt upon with pleasure. My heart, like a poor bird which is hunted from her nest, is still returning to the place of her affections, and, after some vain efforts to fly off, settles again where all its cares and all its tenderness are centered. Adieu.



### L E T T E R XIX.

*To Colonel R\*\*\*\*, in Spain.*

*From his lady in England.*

**B**Efore this can reach the best of husbands, and the fondest lover, those tender names will be of no more concern to me. The indisposition in which you, to obey the dictates of your honour and duty, left me, has increased upon me; and I am acquainted, by my physicians, I cannot live a week longer. At this time my spirits fails me, and it is the ardent love I have for you that carries me beyond my strength, and enables me to tell you, the most painful thing in the prospect of death is, that I must part with you: but let it be a comfort to you, that I have no guilt hangs upon me, no unrepented folly that

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that retards me ; but I pass away my last hours in reflection upon the happiness we have lived in together, and in sorrow that it is so soon to have an end. This is a frailty which, I hope, is so far from being criminal, that methinks there is a kind of piety in being so unwilling to be separated from a state which is the institution of Heaven, and in which we have lived according to its laws. As we know no more of the next life, but that it will be an happy one to the good, and miserable to the wicked, why may we not please ourselves, at least, to alleviate the difficulty of resigning this being, in imagining that we shall have a sense of what passes below, and may possibly be employed in guiding the steps of those with whom we walked with innocence when mortal ? Why may not I hope to go on in my usual work, and, though unknown to you, be assistant in all the conflicts of your mind ? Give me leave to say to you, O best of men ! that I cannot figure to myself a greater happiness than in such an employment ; to be present at all the adventures to which human life is exposed ; to administer slumber to thy eye-lids in the agonies of a fever ; to cover thy beloved face in the day of battle ; to go with thee a guardian angel, incapable of wound or pain, where I have longed to attend thee, when a weak, a fearful woman. These, my dear, are the thoughts with which I warm my poor languid heart ; but indeed I am not capable, under my present weakness, of bearing the strong agonies of mind I fall into, when I form to myself the grief you must be in upon your first hearing of my departure. I will not dwell upon this, because your kind and generous heart will be but the more afflicted, the more the person for whom you lament offers you consolation. My last breath will, if I am myself, expire in a prayer for you. I shall never see your face again. Farewell for ever.



## LETTER XX.

L A U R A to A U R E L I A.

**C**ould your importunity have prevailed with my brother to have left me in London, you had been free from the vexation that I shall certainly give you, by making you the confident of all my country-adventures; and I hope you will relieve my chagrin, by telling me what the dear bewitching busy world is doing, while I am idly sauntering away my time in the rural shades. How happy are you, my dear Aurelia! how I envy you the enjoyment of dust, of crouds and noise, with all the polite hurry of the beau monde!

My brother brought me hither to see a country-feat he has lately purchased; he would fain persuade me it is finely situated, but I should think it more finely situated in the Mall, or even in Cheapside, than here. Indeed I hardly know where we are, only that it is at a dreadful distance from the Theatre Royal, from the Opera, from the Masquerade, and every thing in this world that is worth living for. I can scarce tell you whether to direct your letters; we are certainly at the end of the earth, on the borders of the continent, the limits of the habitable globe; under the polar star, among wild people and savages. I thought we should never have come to the end of our pilgrimage; nor could I forbear asking my brother, if we were to travel by dry land to the antipodes; not a mile but seemed ten, that carried me from London, the centre of all my joys. The country is my aversion; I hate trees and hedges, steep hills and silent vallies. The satirists may laugh, but to me

*Green fields, and shady groves, and crystal springs,  
And larks, and nightingales, are odious things.*

I had rather hear London cries, with the rattle of coaches, than sit listening to the melancholy murmur of purling brooks, or all the wild music of the woods; the smell of violets gives me the hysterics;  
fresh

fresh air murders me ; my constitution is not robust enough to bear it ; the cooling zephyrs will fan me into a catarrh, if I stay here much longer. If these are the seats of the muses, let them unenvied enjoy their glittering whimsies, and converse with the visionary beings of their own forming. I have no fancy for dryades and fairies, nor the least prejudice to human society : a mere earthly beau, with an embroidered coat, suits my taste better than an airy lover with his shining tresses and rainbow-wings.

The sober twilight, which has employed so many soft descriptions, is with me a very dull period : nor does the moon (on which the poets dote) with all her starry train, delight me half so much as an assembly-room illuminated with wax candles : this is what I should prefer to the glaring sun in his meridian splendor. Day-light makes me sick ; it has something in it so common and vulgar, that it seems fitter for peasants to make hay in, or country-lasses to spin by, than for the use of people of distinction. You pity me, I know, dear Aurelia, in this deplorable state ; the whole creation is a blank to me, it is all joyless and desolate. In whatever gay images the muses have dressed these rustic abodes, I have not penetration enough to discover them. Not the flowery field, nor spangled sky, the rosy morn, or balmy evening, can recreate my thoughts : I am neither a religious nor poetical enthusiast ; and without either of these qualifications, what should I do in silent retreats and pensive shades ? I find myself but little at ease in this absence of the noisy diversions of the town ; and it is hard for me to keep up my spirits in leisure and retirement ; it makes me anxiously inquisitive what will become of me when my breath flies away. Death that ghastly phantom, perpetually intrudes on my solitude, and some doleful knell from a neighbouring steeple, often calls upon me to ruminate on coffins and funerals, graves and gloomy sepulchres. As these dismal subjects put me in the vapours, and make me start at my own

shadow, the sooner I come to town the better; and wish, my dear Aurelia, you would oblige me so far as to lay a scheme for my escape. Adieu.

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### L E T T E R XXI.

*From Polydore to Alonzo, giving an account of his accidentally meeting Aurelia, and of her falsehood to him, &c.*

**Y**OU have spent so many hours at the Earl of —'s fine seat in the country, that it is unnecessary to describe those beautiful scenes with which you are so well acquainted. Here have I passed a great part of the summer season, in a manner suitable to my contemplative humour. Having no taste for country-diversions, or any kind of rural sports, my pleasures were confined to the charming shades in gardens, with which the house is surrounded.

Here I enjoyed an unmolested tranquillity, till a fit of curiosity led me to make an excursion into the wide champaign, that opened before me from the borders of the park.

If I begin with the rosy dawn, you will pardon my romantic style, relating to the surprising adventure: but, without telling a lie, the morning was yet dusky; the balmy dew, and fragrant gales, perfumed the air with their untainted sweets; while, with thoughts free as the airy songsters that warble on the branches, I wandered from rising hills to winding vales, through flowery lawns to leafy woods, till I found myself under the shades of a venerable row of elms, which put me in mind of Sir Roger de Coverley's rookery; the aged trees shot their heads so high, that, to one who passed under them, the crows and rooks, which rested on their tops, seemed to be cawing in another region. I was delighted with the noise, while, with the spectator, I considered it as a kind of natural prayer to that Being, who supplies the wants of his whole creation; my

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my thoughts were inspired with a pleasing gratitude to the beneficent Father of the universe, till the sequel of my devotion was interrupted by the sight of a beautiful girl, about four or five years old, sitting on the grass, with a basket of flowers in her lap, which she was sticking in the snowy fleece of a little lamb, that stood by her.

I began to hope it was one of the fairy race, or some pretty phantom that haunted the grove; for the adjacent house belonging to this reverend avenue, looked more like a dormitory for the dead, than an habitation for the living; every thing about it appeared ruinous and desolate. I could neither hear the voice, nor trace the steps of mortal man in this obsolete solitude; nor had I any hopes of knowing in what wild region I was got, unless the pretty figure sitting on the grass could give me some intelligence.

I made my approaches very respectfully: but what was my surprise, in drawing near, to find the air, the complexion, every feature in miniature, of the ungrateful Aurelia, on whom I once so passionately doted! A thousand tormenting ideas rushed into my mind at the sight of this lovely creature, who smiled on me with the most enchanting innocence. Whilst I stood eagerly gazing at her, which was not long, Aurelia herself entered the walk, and confirmed the suspicion, that this child was a living proof of her infamy.

It is about six years since she eloped from the public view, regardless of her own illustrious family, or the obligations she was under to the generous Cleone, who treated her with the utmost confidence, and was the last that suspected her husband's criminal affair with her.—Be my own wrongs forgot, and all the contempt with which she treated whatever proposals honour and disinterested passion could make.

I found her now an object of pity rather than resentment, the dejection of her mind was visible in her pale haggard looks, and the wretched negligence of her habit. I could hardly persuade myself

this was the celebrated lady that once appeared in all public places with such a parade of equipage and vanity.

She was in the utmost confusion at this interview, till excusing myself, I told her this intrusion was undesigned, and purely the effect of chance, as I was taking a morning's ramble from the Earl of —'s, where I had spent some time; and that she might depend upon my word, not to discover her abode to any one in that family.

By this time she was a little composed, and invited me to rest myself after my walk. I followed her into the house, which looked more like the mansions of despair, than a retreat for a lady of pleasure: an awful silence reigned in every room, through which I made a shift to find my way by a dim twilight that glimmered through some windows of as antique a figure as those of an old abbey. The furniture, I fancy, has not been displaced from times immemorial; it looks more like unweildy lumber, than any thing designed for use or ornament: there was nothing of a modern date but a tea-table, and that in ruinous circumstances.

It was now about ten o'clock. Aurelia ordered tea and chocolate to be brought. All her attendance was a fresh coloured country lass, who withdrew as soon as we had breakfasted.

I was impatient to hear a relation of Aurelia's misfortunes, but durst not ask any question, for fear it would look like insulting her distress; so only renewed my excuses for interrupting her privacy.

To which she replied, that though I was the last person in the world she would have chose to be a witness of her infamy, yet she thought herself happy in having an opportunity to make some apology for her injustice to me, in refusing those terms of honour I once offered, and complying with such reproachful conditions, as had made her the most miserable creature on earth.

"It was my criminal inclination" (continued she)

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“ for Cassander, that made me inflexible to your  
 “ entreaties, and my father’s commands to marry  
 “ you. But whatever wrong this was to your me-  
 “ rit, my guilt, with regard to the generous Cleone,  
 “ is of a higher nature. The intrigue I had with  
 “ her husband was attended with circumstances of  
 “ the blackest treachery. I have broke through  
 “ the tenderest engagements of friendship, and  
 “ granted all that my dissolute lover could ask;  
 “ when finding myself with child, to hide my infa-  
 “ my, he brought me to this desolate place, an old  
 “ mansion-house belonging to his family, where I  
 “ am cut off from human society, except two or  
 “ three stupid peasants, his tenants, who reside in  
 “ some part of this Gothic structure. It is now six  
 “ years since I have breathed and slept (for I can-  
 “ not call it living) in this melancholy confinement,  
 “ without hopes of a release, being entirely de-  
 “ pendant on Cassander’s allowance and caprice,  
 “ who but too well knows his own power and my  
 “ folly; which makes him, instead of the humble  
 “ lover, act the imperious tyrant: his visits are  
 “ seldom, his stay short, and I am left whole  
 “ months to languish alone in a detested solitude.

“ This child,” (continued she, weeping, and  
 taking the lovely creature in her arms), “ this child,  
 “ which might have been my joy, proves my great-  
 “ est affliction. Should I die, she is immediately  
 “ abandoned to hardship and necessity; should I  
 “ live, it distracts me to think she may follow my  
 “ scandalous example. How can I give her instruc-  
 “ tions to avoid those vices, which my practice ap-  
 “ proves? or recommend that virtue, whose sacred  
 “ rules I have so openly violated? And still I love  
 “ this worthless man. Were I penitent, could I  
 “ resolve on a reformation, this leisure and retire-  
 “ ment would be a blessing and advantage to me;  
 “ but I am obstinate in guilt, while I despair of  
 “ happiness in this world, or the next. Until I  
 “ came hither my hours were spent in frolic and  
 “ gaiety;”



“gaiety; a constant series of diversions shortened  
“the days, and gave wings to the jovial hours,  
“which now have leaden feet, and burdened with  
“grief, lag heavily along. No sort of reflection  
“gives me joy; whether I look backward or for-  
“ward, all is darkness and confusion: I am no  
“way qualified for retirement: books are aversion,  
“thinking is my horror; I am weary of living,  
“and afraid to die.”

I heard this account with a heart full of compassion, and said what I could to persuade her to break off this criminal commerce with Cassander, and to throw herself on the care of Providence, and the generosity of her friends: but I had too much value for my own peace, and too great a contempt for a woman of Aurelia's character, to make any particular proposals for her freedom; and bidding her adieu, hastened back to the Earl's without saying one word of my adventure, which I commit to your secrecy, and subscribe myself

Your most humble servant,  
POLYDORE.



LETTER XXII.

*A letter from Aistus, giving his friend a relation of the sudden death of his bride, who was seized in the chapel while the sacred rites were performing.*

MY fate will furnish you with a full evidence of the vanity of human happiness. My last letter was wrote in the height of success, with the most arrogant expectations and boast of a lasting felicity; now it is all changed, and the shadows of night come over me.

The lovely Ermina, whom I had so long pursued, and at last persuaded to crown my wishes, the very morning she gave me her hand, before the sacred ceremony was finished, was surpris'd with the fatal message of death; and carried in a swoon from the

the chapel to her chamber, where she soon expired in her mother's arms. This hour she appeared with all the cost and splendor of a youthful bride; the next she is pale and senseless, muffled in a ghastly shroud: those charms, that in the morning promised an eternal bloom, before the evening have dropt their smiling pride; the sparkling eyes are sunk in darkness; the soft, the tuneful voice, is for ever silent; while a livid hue sits on the late rosy lips.

*Thus airy pleasure dances in our eyes,  
And spreads false images in fair disguise,  
T' allure our souls; till just within thy arms  
The vision dies, and all the painted charms  
Flee quick away from the pursuing sight,  
Till they are lost in shades, and mingle with the night.*

O death! how cruel was thy triumph! Youth and beauty, joy and blooming hope, lie here a victim to thy rage: the darksome prison of the grave must now confine the gentle captive; instead of the pomp of a bridal-bed, the cold earth must be her lodging, dust and corruption her covering.

You will now expect I should practise the principles I have so often asserted, in exercising my boasted reason and moderation; or leave you to insult me, with the arguments I lately produced, to allay your grief, under the pressure of an uncommon misfortune. This reproach would be but just at a period when Heaven has given me a full evidence of the truths I confessed; and set the vanity of human hopes in the clearest demonstration before me. One would think I should now, if ever, find it easy to moralize on these subjects, and act the philosopher from mere necessity, if not from virtue.

Were the case yours, or any body's but my own, how many wise things should I repeat! How fluently could I talk! So much more easy is it to dictate than to practise. And yet I am reasonable by intervals; I am in more than name, a Christian; in some bright periods, I feel the force of that profession,  
and

and pay homage to its sacred rules : a heavenly ray scatters my grief, and cheers my soul with divine consolations : the gay and the gloomy appearances of mortal things vanish before the gleams of celestial light : immortal pleasures, with gentle invitations, call me to the skies, and all my thoughts ascend.

But how short my triumph ! how easy the transition from reason to madness ! of what surprising variety is a human mind capable ! Light and darkness, Heaven and hell, seemed blended within ; it is all chaos, and wild disorder : that reason which one moment relieves me, the next seems with a just train of ideas to torment me.

*See there, all pale and dead she lies :*

*For ever flow my streaming eyes :*

*Fly Hymen, with extinguish'd fires ;*

*Fly nuptial bliss, and chaste desires :*

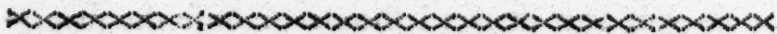
*Ermina's fled, the loveliest mind,*

*Faith, sweetness, wit, together join'd.*

*Dwelt faith, and wit, and sweetness there ?*

*Oh ! view the change, and drop a tear.*

Adieu.



## LETTER XXIII.

*From Mr. Pope to Mr. Addison.*

I Have been lying in wait for my own imagination this week and more, and watching what thoughts came up in the whirl of fancy, that were worth communicating to you in a letter. But I am at length convinced that my rambling head can produce nothing of this sort ; so I must even be contented with telling you the old story, that I love you heartily. I have often found by experience, that nature and truth, though never so low and vulgar, are yet pleasing, when openly and artlessly represented, It would be diverting to me to read the very letters of an infant, could it write its innocent inconsistencies and tautologies, just as it thought them. This makes

me



me hope a letter from me will not be unwelcome to you, when I am conscious I write with more unre-servedness than ever man wrote, or perhaps talked to another. I trust your good nature with the whole range of my follies, and really love you so well, that I would rather you should pardon me than esteem me; since one is an act of goodness and benevolence, the other a kind of constrained deference.

You can't wonder my thoughts are scarce consistent, when I tell you how they are distracted. Every hour of my life my mind is strangely divided; this minute perhaps I am above the stars, with a thousand systems round about me, looking forward into a vast abyss, and losing my whole comprehension in the boundless space of creation, in dialogues with Whiston and the astronomers; the next moment I am below all trifles, grovelling with T. in the very centre of nonsense: Now I am recreated with the brisk sallies and quick turns of wit, which Mr. Steele in his liveliest and freest humour darts about him; and now levelling my application to the insignificant observations and quirks of grammar of C. and D.

Good God! what an incongruous animal is man! how unsettled in his best part, his soul; and how changing and variable in his frame of body? The constancy of the one shook by every notion, the temperament of the other affected by every blast of wind! What is he altogether but one mighty inconsistency? sickness and pain is the lot of one half of him; doubt and fear the portion of the other! What a bustle we make about passing our time, when all our space is but a point? What aims and ambitions are crowded into this little instant of our life, which as Shakespear finely words it) is rounded with a sleep? Our whole extent of being is no more, in the eye of him who gave it, than a scarce perceptible moment of duration. Those animals, whose circle of living is limited to three or four hours, as the naturalists tell us, are yet as long-lived, and possess as wide a scene of action as man, if we consider

consider him with a view to all space, and all eternity. Who knows what plots, what achievements a mite may perform in his kingdom of a grain of dust, within his life of some minutes? And of how much less consideration even than this, is the life of man in the sight of God, who is for ever, and for ever?

Who that thinks in this strain, but must see the world and its contemptible grandeurs lessen before him at every thought; it is enough to make one remain stupified in a poise of inaction, void of all desires, of all designs, of all friendships.

But we must return (through our very condition of being) to our narrow selves, and those things that affect ourselves: our passions, our interests, flow in upon us, and unphilosophize us into mere mortals. For my part, I never return so much into myself as when I think of you, whose friendship is one of the best comforts I have for the insignificance of myself.

I am yours, &c.



#### L E T T E R XXIV.

*From Miss —, to her brother, to acquaint him with the death of their mother.*

My dear brother,

What shall I tell you? how will you be able to bear the fatal news of the death of our much honoured mother, whose loss is to me more bitter than death, and will plunge you, I fear, into the deepest sorrow? But the other night she called me to her bedside, and taking me by the hand, said, "My dear child, I am just going to leave you; a few hours will bear me to the world of spirits. I willingly resign you my dear charge, and your brothers, if they are yet alive, to the care of a good God, who will always befriend the virtuous. I rejoice you are of that number: if you continue as you have set out, you cannot fail of being happy. When you

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you have an opportunity to write to your brothers, or shall see them, tell them I died with them on my heart, left them a mother's blessing, and had no higher wish on earth than to hear they were wise and good. Alas, poor Pamphilus ! would to God he was so : were I sure of this, I should die perfectly easy. I hope Ebulus will return to you, and heaven make you happy in each other. Farewell, my dearest child ! may heaven preserve you wise and good ; and when you drop a tear to the memory of a loving mother, be excited thereby to imitate whatever you thought good in her. Oh ! farewell". With these words, the dear woman resigned her soul into her Maker's hands, and smiled in the agony of death. Oh ! my dear brother, grief overwhelms me ; I can add no more, but that I long exceedingly to see you ; that will be my only cordial, to alleviate the heavy loss of your affectionate sister,

ELIZA ROWE.



## L E T T E R XXV.

*Mrs. Rowe to the Countess of Hertford.*

Madam,

WHEN I begin a friendship, it is for immortality.

This confession, I own, is enough to put you in some terror that you are never like to drop my conversation in this world, nor the next ; but I hope I shall improve in the realms of light, and get a new set of thoughts to entertain you with at your arrival there, which, for the public interest, I wish may be long after I am sleeping in the dust ; but perhaps mine will be the first joyful spirit that will welcome you to the immaterial coasts, and entertain you with one of the softest songs of paradise at your arrival.

—Mr. Rollie would think these all gay chimeras and gay visions, but how much more so are all the charming scenes on earth ?

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As



*As the fantastic images of night,  
Before the op'ning morning take their flight;  
So vanish all the hopes of men; their pride,  
And vain designs the laughing skies deride.*

You will think, Madam, I am resolved you shall remember your latter end, whoever forgets it. I suppose you will expect the next picture I send you will be Time, with a scythe and an hour-glass; but really these mementos of mortality are necessary to people like you in the height of greatness, and the full bloom of youth and beauty.—If I go on, you will think me in the height of the vapours, and the perfection of the spleen; but, in all the variety of my temper,

I am your Ladyship's most humble servant,  
ELIZ. ROWE.

I admire the verses you inclosed, and am surpris'd at the author.



## LETTER XXVI.

*From Mrs. Rowe to the Countess of Hertford.  
Written the day before her death.*

Madam,

**T**His is the last letter you will ever receive from me, the last assurance I shall give you, on earth, of a sincere and stedfast friendship; but when we meet again, I hope it will be in the heights of immortal love and extasy. Mine perhaps may be the glad spirit to congratulate your safe arrival to the happy shores. Heaven can witness how sincere my concern for your happiness is: thither I have sent my ardent wishes that you may be secured from the flattering delusions of the world; and, after your pious example has been long a blessing to mankind, may calmly resign your breath, and enter the confines of unmolested joy.—I am now taking my farewell of you here; but it is a short adieu, with full persuasion

sion that we shall soon meet again.—But oh ! in what elevation of happiness !—In what enlargement of mind, and what perfection of every faculty !—What transporting reflections shall we make on the advantages of which we shall be eternally possessed !—To him that loved us, and washed us in his blood, shall we ascribe immortal glory, dominion, and praise for ever: this all is my salvation, all my hope. That name on whom the Gentiles trust, in whom all the families of the earth are blessed, is now my glorious, my unfailing confidence. In his worth alone I expect to stand justified before infinite purity and justice. How poor were my hopes, if I depended on those works, which my vanity, or the partiality of men have called good ; and which, if examined by divine purity, would prove, perhaps, but specious sins ! The best actions of my life would be found defective, if brought to the test of that unblemished holiness, in whose sight the heavens are not clean. Where were my hopes, but for a Redeemer's merit and atonement ?—how desperate, how undone my condition !—With the utmost advantages I could boast, I should step back and tremble at the thoughts of appearing before the unblemished Majesty ! Oh JESUS ! what harmony dwells in thy name ! celestial joy and immortal life are in the sound :—let angels set to thee their golden harps, let the ransomed nations for ever magnify thee. What a dream is mortal life ! What shadows are all the objects of mortal sense ! all the glories of mortality (my much-beloved friend) will be nothing in your view at the awful hour of death, when you must be separated from this lower creation, and enter on the borders of the immortal world.

Something persuades me this will be the last farewell in this world ; Heaven forbid it should be an everlasting parting : may that divine protection, whose care I implore, keep you steadfast in the faith of Christianity, and guide your steps in the strictest

paths of virtue. Adieu, my most dear friend, until we meet in the paradise of God.



### L E T T E R XXVII.

*From a person in town, to his brother in the country,  
describing a public execution at Tyburn.*

Dear brother,

**I** Have this day been satisfying a curiosity, I believe natural to most people, by seeing an execution at Tyburn. This sight has had an extraordinary effect upon me, which is more owing to the unexpected oddness of the scene, than the effecting concern, which is unavoidable in a thinking person at a spectacle so awful and so interesting, to all who consider themselves of the same species with the unhappy sufferers.

That I might the better view the prisoners, and escape the pressure of the mob, which is prodigious, nay almost incredible, if we consider the frequency of these executions in London, which is once a month, I mounted my horse, and accompanied the melancholy cavalcade from Newgate to the fatal tree. The criminals were five in number. I was much disappointed at the unconcern and carelessness that appeared in the faces of three of the unhappy wretches. The countenances of the other two were spread with that horror and despair, which is not to be wondered at in men whose period is so near, with the terrible aggravation of its being hastened by their own voluntary indiscretion and misdeeds. The exhortation spoken by the bell-man, from the wall of St Sepulchre's church-yard, is well intended; but the noise of the officers, and the mob, was so great, and the silly curiosity of people climbing into the cart to take leave of the criminals, made such a confused noise, that I could not hear the words of the exhortation when spoken, tho' they are as follow:

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" All good people, pray heartily to God for these  
 " poor sinners, who are now going to their deaths,  
 " for whom this great bell doth toll.

" You that are condemned to die, repent with  
 " lamentable tears. Ask mercy of the Lord for  
 " the salvation of your own souls, through the me-  
 " rit, death, and passion of Jesus Christ, who now  
 " sits at the right hand of God, to make interces-  
 " sion for as many of you as penitently return unto  
 " him.

" *Lord have mercy upon you! Christ have mercy  
 " upon you!*

Which last words the bell-man repeats three times.

All the way up Holburn the croud was so great,  
 as, at every twenty or thirty yards to obstruct the  
 passage; and wine, notwithstanding a late good or-  
 der against that practice, was brought the malefac-  
 tors, who drank greedily of it, which I think did  
 not suit well with their deplorable circumstances.  
 After this, the three thoughtless young men, who at  
 first seemed not enough concerned, grew more  
 shamefully daring and wanton; behaving themselves  
 in a manner that would have been ridiculous in men  
 in any circumstance whatever: they swore, laughed,  
 and talked obscenely; and wished their wicked com-  
 panions good luck, with as much assurance, as if  
 their employment had been the most lawful.

At the place of execution, the scene grew still  
 more shocking; and the clergyman who attended  
 was more the subject of ridicule, than their serious  
 attention. The psalm was sung amidst the curses and  
 quarrelling of hundreds of the most abandoned and  
 profligate of mankind; upon whom (so stupid are  
 they to any sense of decency) all the preparations of  
 the unhappy wretches seem to serve only for the  
 subject of a barbarous kind of mirth, altogether in-  
 consistent with humanity. And as soon as the poor  
 creatures were half dead, I was much surprised, be-  
 fore such a number of peace officers, to see the po-  
 pulace fall to pulling and haling the carcases with

so much earnestness as to occasion several warm encounters, and broken heads. These, I was told, were the friends of the persons executed, or such as, for the sake of tumult, chose to appear so, and some persons sent by private surgeons to obtain bodies for dissection. The contests between these were fierce and bloody, and frightful to look at; so that I made the best of my way out of the croud, and, with some difficulty, rode back among a large number of people, who had been upon the same errand with myself. The face of every one spoke a kind of mirth, as if the spectacle they beheld had afforded pleasure instead of pain, which I am wholly unable to account for.

In other nations, common criminal executions are said to be little attended by any besides the necessary officers, and the mournful friends: but here all was hurry and confusion, racket and noise, praying and oaths, swearing and singing of psalms. I am unwilling to impute this difference in our own from the practice of other nations, to the cruelty of our natures; to which foreigners, however, to our dishonour, ascribe it. In most instances, let them say what they will, we are humane beyond what other nations can boast; but in this, the behaviour of my countrymen is past my accounting for; every street and lane I passed thro' bearing rather the face of a holiday, than that of sorrow which I expected to see, for the untimely deaths of five members of the community.

One of their bodies was carried to the lodging of his wife, who not being in the way to receive it, they immediately hawked it about to every surgeon they could think of; and when none would buy it, they rubbed tar all over it, and left it in a field hardly covered with earth.

This is the best description I can give you of a scene that was no way entertaining to me, and which I shall not again take so much pains to behold. I am, dear brother, your's affectionately.

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## L E T T E R XXVIII.

*The following letter was written by a gentlewoman to her husband, who was condemned to suffer death. The unfortunate catastrophe happened at Exeter, in the time of Oliver's usurpation. A gentleman whose name was Penruddock, to whom the letter was written, was barbarously sentenced to die without the least appearance of justice. He asserted the illegality of his enemies proceeding, with a spirit worthy his innocence; and the night before his death his lady wrote to him this letter, which is so much admired, and is as follows.*

*Mrs. Penruddock's last letter to her husband.*

My dear Heart,

**M**Y sad parting was so far from making me forget you, that I scarce thought upon myself since, but wholly upon you. Those dear embraces which I yet feel, and shall never lose, being the faithful testimonies of an indulgent husband, have charmed my soul to such a reverence of your remembrance, that, were it possible, I would, with my own blood, cement your dear limbs to life again; and (with reverence) think it no sin to rob heaven a little while longer of a martyr. O, my dear, you must now pardon my passion, this being my last (O fatal word!) that ever you will receive from me; and know, that until the last minute that I can imagine you alive, I will sacrifice the prayers of a Christian, and the groans of an afflicted wife. And when you are not, (which sure by sympathy I shall know, I shall wish my own dissolution with you, that so we may go hand in hand to heaven. 'Tis too late to tell you what I have, or rather have not done for you; how turned out of doors because I came to beg mercy; the Lord lay not your blood to their charge. I would fain discourse longer with you, but dare not; passion begins to drown my reason, and will rob me of my devoir, which is all I have left to serve you. Adieu, therefore ten thousand times, my dearest dear; and since I must never

see



see you more, take this prayer: May your faith be so strengthened, that your constancy may continue, and then I know heaven will receive you; whither grief and love will, in a short time, (I hope), translate,

My dear, your sad, but constant wife,  
even to love your ashes when dead,  
ARUNDEL PENRUDDOCK.

May the 3d, 1655, 11 o'clock at night.

P. S. Your children beg your blessing, and present their duties to you.

I do not know that I have ever read any thing so affectionate as that line, "those dear embraces, which I yet feel!"

Mr. Penruddock's answer has an equal tenderness, which I shall recite also, that you may see whether the man or the woman expressed themselves the more kindly, and strive to imitate them in less circumstances of distress, for from all no couple upon earth are exempt.



## LETTER XXIX.

*Mr. Penruddock's last letter to his lady.*

Dearest best of creatures,

I Had taken leave of the world when I received yours: it did at once recal my fondness for life, and enable me to resign it. As I am sure I shall leave none behind me like you, which weakens my resolution to part from you; so when I reflect I am going to a place where there is none but such as you, I recover my courage. But fondness breaks in upon me; and I would not have your tears flow to-morrow, when your husband and the father of the dear babes, is a public spectacle. Do not think meanly of me, that I give way to grief now in private, when I see my  
sand.

and run so fast. I within a few hours am to leave you helpless, and exposed to the merciless and insolent, that have wrongfully put me to a shameful death, and will object that shame to my poor children. I thank you for all your goodness to me, and will endeavour so to die, as to do nothing unworthy that virtue in which we have mutually supported each other, and for which I desire you not to repine that I am first to be rewarded; since you ever preferred me to yourself in all other things, afford me, with cheerfulness, the precedence in this.

I desire your prayers in the article of death, for my own will then be offered for you and yours.

J. PENRUDDOCK.



A few short and intelligible FORMS of MESSAGES for Cards or BILLETS, which may be varied at pleasure, so as to serve all occasions.

### M E S S A G E I.

**M**R and Mrs Cecil's compliments to Mr and Mrs Howard, and desire the favour of their company Wednesday next, to drink tea, and spend the evening.

Monday morn.

II. Mr and Mrs Howard return their compliments to Mr and Mrs Cecil, and will certainly do themselves the pleasure to wait on them.

Monday noon.

III. Mr and Mrs Howard return their compliments, and are sorry it happens that a pre-engagement will not permit them the pleasure of waiting on.

on Mr and Mrs Cecil, which they would otherwise have readily done.

Monday morn.

IV. Mr and Mrs Compton's compliments to Mr. and Mrs Stanley; and if they are disengaged this afternoon, will take the pleasure of waiting on them.

Tuesday morn.

V. Mr and Mrs Stanley are perfectly disengaged, beg their compliments, and will be extremely glad of Mr and Mrs Compton's agreeable company.

Tuesday noon.

VI. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley are very sorry it so happens that they are engaged this afternoon and evening; but beg their compliments, and any other time that shall be agreeable to Mr and Mrs Compton, will be proud of the pleasure of their company.

Tuesday noon.

VII. Miss Willis sends her compliments to Miss Byron, and desires to know how she does; and if well enough to see company, and it be agreeable, will wait on her this afternoon in the coach, and give her an airing for an hour before tea.

Wednesday morn.

VIII. Miss Byron, without a compliment, is very agreeably obliged to Miss Willis, whom she would be extremely glad to see, and accepts of her kind salutary offer, an airing in the coach at the time proposed.

Wednesday morn.

IX. Miss Byron, instead of compliments, begs leave to return Miss Willis her best thanks for her very obliging card, and is extremely sorry she is not well enough to have the pleasure of her company; which, however, she hopes very soon for a full enjoyment of, and to be able to accept of her kind offer of an airing in the coach.

Wednesday noon, and not up.

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X. Mrs Wyndham presents her compliments to Mrs Pemberton ; hopes she is well, and to have the favour of her company to morrow evening, with a small but agreeable party at friendly whist.

Thursday afternoon.

XI. Mrs Pemberton is not so well as she could wish, but much at Mrs Wyndham's service, and will endeavour to wait on her.

Thursday even.

XII. Mr Lambert's compliments wait on Miss Norris, to beg the very great favour of being her partner to-morrow evening at the assembly.

Friday morn.

XIII. Miss Norris's compliments to Mr Lambert, and she is engaged.

Friday.

XIV. Miss Norris's compliments ; she is not certain of being at the assembly, and undetermined about dancing ; so Mr Lambert must not absolutely depend on her for a partner.

Friday morn.

XV. Miss Wansey is sorry to trouble Miss Cooper on so trifling an occasion, as how to direct to her aunt Waterland ; begs her compliments and a line of information by the bearer.

Sunday evening.

XVI. Mrs Chedworth's respects (compliments she has done with) to Miss Charlton, and if not engaged, her company, as it will be extremely agreeable, is desired this evening at a party of quadrille, about four tables in the whole.

Monday morn.

XVII. Miss Charlton's best services ; she has the pleasure of Mrs Chedworth's respectful message, and it is much against her inclination, that she is obliged to

to say she cannot possibly wait on her, having this evening a previous engagement that cannot be dispensed with.

Tuesday morn.

XVIII. If Miss Romney be well enough, Lady Bathurst's compliments, and she proposes a visit this afternoon to Miss Arran, and will be very glad of her company; the coach is ordered exactly at four, and an airing will not be amiss.

Wednesday, eleven o'clock.

XIX. Miss Romney has the honour of Lady Bathurst's card; she begs leave to return her compliments, and is very much at her Ladyship's service, and will certainly wait on her.

Wednesday.

XX. Mrs Legg has a party at cards next Wednesday se'ennight of eight tables; she presents her compliments to Mr Strong, and desires the favour of his company.

Thursday, Dec. 5.

XXI. Mr Strong has the honour of Mrs Legg's card, thinks himself extremely obliged in being of the party, and will certainly do himself the pleasure of waiting on her.

Thursday, Dec. 5.

XXII. Mr Bedford, after the honour of dancing last night with Miss Hammond, is concerned that he is prevented waiting on her this morning by a sudden call to town; begs his compliments may be acceptable; hopes this message will find her in perfect health, and that she took no cold.

Friday morn. eight o'clock.

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## A N

# English Spelling Dictionary.

### A B

**A** Bandon  
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abscond  
absence  
absolve  
absolute  
abstain  
abstemious  
abstinence  
abstract  
abstraction  
abstruse  
absurd  
abundance  
abuse  
abusive  
accede  
academy  
accelerate  
acceleration  
accept  
acceptableness  
accessory  
accident  
accidental  
acclamation  
accommodate  
accommodation  
accompany  
accomplice  
accomplish  
accomplishment  
accord  
accost  
account

### A D

accountant  
accoutrement  
accumulation  
accuracy  
accursed  
accusation  
accuser  
acid  
acknowledgment  
acquaint  
acquiesce  
action  
actor  
acre  
actual  
acute  
adapt  
adder  
addition  
address  
adequate  
adhere  
adjacent  
adieu  
adjoin  
adjournment  
adjure  
admeasurement  
administer  
administration  
administratorship  
admirableness  
admiralty  
admire



## A D

admit  
admonish  
adopt  
adorable  
adornment  
advancement  
advantageous  
adventitious  
adventure  
adventurous  
adversary  
advertisement  
advise  
adult  
adulteration  
advocate  
advowson  
affability  
affair  
affect  
affectation  
affection  
affiance  
affidavit  
affinity  
affirm  
affirmatively  
affix  
affliction  
affluence  
afford  
afforded  
affray  
affront  
aforehand  
afraid  
agent  
aggrandize  
aggravation  
aggression  
agile  
agility  
agitate  
agonize  
agreeableness

## A L

agreement  
agriculture  
agrimony  
aground  
ague  
alabaster  
alarm  
albeit  
alchymist  
alcove  
alderman  
algebra  
alien  
aliment  
allay  
allegation  
allegiance  
allegorical  
alleviate  
alliance  
alligation  
alligator  
allowance  
alloy  
almanac  
Almighty  
aloes  
alphabetically  
already  
alteration  
alternate  
amain  
amass  
amaze  
ambiguity  
amercement  
ambition  
amicableness  
amusement  
anabaptist  
analogy  
analysis  
anarchy  
anathema  
anatomy

## A N

ancestors  
anchor  
anchovy  
anecdote  
animadversion  
animalcule  
animosity  
anniversary  
annihilate  
annoy  
antechamber  
antimonarchial  
antichristianism  
antidote  
antipathy  
Antipodes  
antiquity  
anxiety  
Apocrypha  
apoplectic  
apostasy  
apparatus  
apparel  
apparition  
appear  
appetite  
applicable  
arbitrary  
archdeacon  
archbishopric  
archetype  
argumentation  
armada  
armour  
arraignment  
arrogance  
arrogate  
arsenal  
artery  
arificer  
asparagus  
aspiration  
assistant  
associate  
assuage

## B

astonish  
astrology  
astronomy  
atrocious  
attribute  
avail  
avarice  
auctione  
authorit  
authent  
axle-tree  
azure  
B  
Bachel  
backslid  
backwa  
baggag  
baggip  
bailiff  
bailiwi  
balance  
balcon  
balder  
baldne  
baleful  
ballad  
ballast  
balsam  
balust  
bandit  
banefu  
banish  
banke  
bankr  
barba  
Barba  
barbe  
barbe  
barga  
baron  
barra  
barrie  
barrie  
barrie  
barte

## B A

astonish  
astrologer  
astronomy  
atrocious  
attribute  
avail  
avarice  
auctioneer  
authority  
authentic  
axle-tree  
azure  
B  
Bachelor  
backslide  
backward  
baggage  
bagpipe  
bailiff  
bailiwick  
balance  
balcony  
balderdash  
baldness  
baleful  
ballad  
ballast  
balsamic  
balustrade  
banditti  
baneful  
banishment  
banker  
bankrupt  
barbarian  
Barbadoes  
barbed  
barber  
bargain  
barometer  
barrack  
barricado  
barrier  
barriſter  
barter

## B E

base  
bashful  
basil  
basilisk  
basset  
balloon  
bas-relief  
bastinado  
bastion  
baton  
battalia  
beacon  
beadle  
beard  
beastly  
beatific  
beau  
beaver  
beautify  
beaux  
bedaub  
beech  
behaviour  
besom  
beggary  
belabour  
beldam  
beleager  
belfry  
bellow  
Belvidere  
bemire  
bemoan  
benevolence  
bergamot  
Berlin  
besought  
bespeckle  
besprinkle  
bestriden  
bethought  
betony  
betroth  
bevel  
beverage

## B L

bewildered  
bewitch  
bidder  
bigot  
bilander  
bilboes  
bilious  
billet-doux  
binder  
biographer  
bird-call  
bird-lime  
bishopric  
biss textile  
bittern  
bitumen  
bladder  
blackmoor  
blackness  
blacksmith  
blameable  
Blandford  
blanket  
blaspheme  
blazon  
bleak  
bleat  
blemish  
blindfold  
blister  
blithe  
blockhead  
bloodshed  
bloodshot  
blossom  
blunder  
bluster  
bluntness  
boaster  
boatswain  
bobtail  
bodice  
boggle  
boggy  
boiler

## B O

boisterous  
boldness  
bolster  
bombardier  
bombast  
bombafine  
bondage  
bonfire  
bongrace  
bonnet  
booby  
bookbinder  
book-keeping  
bookfeller  
book-worm  
boorish  
bopeep  
borrower  
Bosphorous  
bosses  
botanical  
botcher  
botching  
bottomless  
bought  
bolting-mill  
bounce  
boundary  
bounteous  
bowed  
bowling-green  
boyish  
braggadocio  
brainless  
brambles  
brand-iron  
brandish  
brandy  
Brasil  
bravado  
brawler  
brawn  
brawny  
breach  
breakfast

## B R

breast-plate  
breeches  
breeding  
breviary  
brew-house  
bribery  
bridegroom  
bridle  
brigade  
brigantine  
brilliant  
brow-beaten  
brutality  
buckler  
buckthorn  
Bucolic  
bud  
budge  
budget  
buff  
buff coat  
buffet  
buffoonry  
bug  
bugle  
buggery  
build  
builder  
building  
built  
bulb  
bulfinch  
bulge  
bulk  
bulkiness  
bulk  
bull  
bull-beating  
bullet  
bull-head  
bullion  
bullock  
bulrush  
bulwark  
bum

## B U

bumper  
bumpkin  
bunch  
bunchy  
bundle  
bung-hole  
bungle  
bungler  
buoy  
buoyant  
buying  
bur  
burden  
burdensome  
burrough  
burgess  
burgessship  
burgh  
burgher  
burglar  
burglary  
burgo-master  
burial  
burlesque  
burly  
burn  
burning  
burning-glass  
burning-iron  
burnish  
burnisher  
burnt  
burr  
burrow  
burse  
busfer  
burst  
bursten  
bury  
bush  
bushel  
bushy  
busily  
business  
buskin

## B U

busf  
bust  
bustle  
busy  
but  
butcher  
butcherl  
butchery  
butler  
butlersh  
butt  
butter  
butterfl  
butter-n  
buttery  
buttock  
button  
butfress  
buy  
buyer  
buxom  
buz  
buzzard  
by  
by-ends  
by-laws  
by-plac  
by-way  
by-wor  
C  
Cabinets  
calcula  
Calvini  
calumn  
caldron  
cambric  
cameli  
camble  
camom  
campan  
camph  
Canary  
cancel  
cancer  
candid



## B U

busb  
bust  
bustle  
busy  
but  
butcher  
butcherly  
butchery  
butler  
butlership  
butt  
butter  
butterfly  
butter-milk  
buttery  
buttock  
button  
buttreffs  
buy  
buyer  
buxom  
buz  
buzzard  
by  
by-ends  
by-laws  
by-place  
by-way  
by-word

## C

Cabinent  
calculation  
Calvinist  
calumniate  
caldron  
cambric  
camelion  
camblet  
camomile  
campaign  
camphire  
Canary-bird  
cancel  
cancer  
candidate

## C A

candid  
Candlemas  
candlestick  
candour  
canine  
canister  
canker  
cannibal  
canon  
canonical  
canonist  
canonization  
cannonshot  
canopy  
cantharides  
Canticles  
canton  
canvass  
capacious  
cap-a-pee  
caper  
capillary  
capital  
capitol  
capitulate  
capon  
caprice  
captain  
captious  
captive  
captivate  
capture  
capuchin  
carabineer  
caravan  
carbonade  
carbuncle  
carcase  
cardinal  
career  
careful  
careless  
cargo  
carmine  
carnal

## C A

carnage  
carnival  
carnivorous  
Carolina  
carouse  
carpet  
carpenter  
carriage  
carrier  
carrion  
cartel  
Cartesian  
Carthusian  
cartilage  
cartridge  
cascade  
cashier  
Cassiope  
cassock  
cast-away  
castrate  
castle  
casually  
casuist  
catacomb  
catalogue  
catarrh  
cataract  
catastrophe  
catchpole  
catechetical  
catechism  
categorical  
caterer  
caterpillar  
cathartic  
Catharine  
cathedral  
catholic  
caterwauling  
cavalcade  
cavalier  
cavalry  
caveat  
cavern

## C H A

cavernous  
causeless  
caustic  
caution  
cautiously  
ceiling  
celebrate  
celerity  
cement  
cenfor  
censure  
centaur  
centinel  
century  
centry  
cephalic  
Cerberus  
cerecloth  
ceremonial  
certainty  
certificate  
cessation  
chafing-dish  
chagrin  
chaife  
Chaldee  
chaldron  
challenge  
chamber  
chamberlain  
chambermaid  
champaign  
champion  
chancellor  
chance-medley  
chancery  
chandler  
change  
channel  
chaos  
chaplain  
chapman  
chaplet  
character  
charcoal

## C H Y

chargeable  
chariot  
charitable  
charity  
charmer  
charnel house  
charter  
chasten  
chattels  
cheap  
chequered  
cheek-bone  
cheer  
cheese  
cherish  
cherry  
chesnut  
cherubim  
chevalier  
chicanery  
chicken  
chidingly  
chief  
chieftain  
chilbain  
child-bearing  
chimerical  
chimney-piece  
China  
chirurgion  
chiffel  
chocolate  
choice  
choler  
chopin  
Christian  
Christendom  
Christmas  
chronologer  
chubbiness  
church-warden  
churlish  
chymical  
chymist  
chymistry

## C L E

cinnamon  
cinders  
circulate  
circumcise  
circumference  
circumflex  
circumfusion  
circumjacent  
circumlocation  
circumrotation  
circumscription  
circumspection  
circumstantial  
circumvallation  
circumvent  
circumvolution  
cistern  
citadel  
citation  
cite  
citron  
civet  
civility  
civilian  
clack  
clad  
claim  
clamour  
clandestine  
clap  
claret  
clarification  
clarion  
clash  
clasp  
clatter  
clave  
clause  
clay  
clean  
cleanse  
clearness  
cleft  
clemency  
Clement

## C C

clenchers  
clergyme  
cleverly  
clew  
climate  
climacter  
cling  
clipper  
clock-ma  
clog  
cloister  
closeness  
clothier  
cloudine  
cloven  
clownish  
cluster  
clutter  
coach  
coadjuto  
coalesce  
ccarsene  
cockatri  
co-effici  
coffeeho  
cohabit  
co-heir  
coheren  
coition  
collectio  
collisio  
collusio  
colloqu  
colonel  
columb  
combat  
comber  
combin  
comedic  
comfor  
comica  
comeli  
comm  
comm  
comm

## C O M

clenchers  
clergymen  
cleverly  
clew  
climate  
climacteric  
cling  
clipper  
clock-maker  
clog  
cloister  
closeness  
clothier  
cloudiness  
cloven  
clownishness  
cluster  
clutter  
coach  
coadjutor  
coalesce  
coarseness  
cockatrice  
co-efficient  
coffeehouse  
cohabit  
co-heir  
coherence  
coition  
collection  
collision  
collusion  
colloquy  
colonel  
columbine  
combat  
comber  
combination  
comedian  
comfortable  
comical  
comeliness  
comma  
commandant  
commemoration

## C O N

commencement  
commensurate  
commentary  
commission  
commotion  
commodious  
comparative  
complaint  
complexion  
compliment  
comportment  
comprehension  
compression  
concealment  
conceited  
concise  
conclusion  
concoction  
concubine  
condemnation  
confabulation  
confection  
confirmation  
conformable  
congenial  
congratulate  
conjecture  
conjunction  
connexion  
conquer  
conscience  
consignation  
consubstantial  
consumption  
contemplation  
contradiction  
controversy  
contumacy  
contumely  
convent  
conviction  
convulsion  
cook  
copious  
coquet

## C R

cordial  
corner  
coronation  
corpulence  
corruption  
cosmography  
cottage  
cover  
counsellor  
courtship  
coward  
coxcomb  
coy  
cozen  
crab  
crack  
cradle  
craft  
crag  
craggy  
crambo  
crane  
crape  
cravate  
crawl  
crayon  
crew  
crimson  
criticism  
crocodile  
crooked  
croud  
crucifix  
cruel  
crumb  
crystal  
cub  
cuckold  
cudgel  
culpable  
cultivation  
cumbrous  
cunning  
cupboard  
cur



## D A

curable  
curate  
curb  
curdle  
curiosity  
curlew  
currants  
curry  
curse  
curtain  
custody  
custom  
customary  
cut  
cycle  
Cyclops  
cygnet  
cylinder  
cymbal  
cynic  
cynical  
cyon  
cypress  
czar  
czarina

## D

Dagon  
dainties  
Dalmatia  
damageable  
damnable  
dampishness  
dandelion  
dangerous  
daughter  
dauntless  
Dauphin  
dazzling  
deaconship  
deal  
deanship  
death-watch  
debauchee  
debenture  
debonair

## D E

decampment  
deceitfulness  
deceiver  
December  
decemvirate  
deception  
decimation  
decipher  
decisive  
declaimer  
declarative  
decoction  
decorate  
decorum  
decrease  
decrepit  
dedicate  
dedication  
deducible  
defamation  
defective  
definition  
deformation  
degenerate  
dejection  
delectation  
delegate  
deliberation  
delicacy  
delicious  
delightful  
delineate  
delineation  
delinquent  
delirious  
deliverer  
demi-god  
decromacy  
demolish  
denunciation  
dependence  
deplorable  
deposition  
depravation  
depravative

## D I

deputation  
derivation  
derogate  
description  
designation  
desirable  
desolation  
desperado  
despicable  
despise  
despiteful  
despondency  
despotic  
destruction  
detect  
determinate  
deftable  
dethrone  
detractor  
diabetes  
diabolical  
diagnostic  
dialling  
dialogue  
diamond  
diametrical  
dictator  
dictionary  
difference  
difficult  
diffuse  
digestion  
dignity  
digression  
dilemma  
diligence  
dilucitate  
dimension  
diminution  
diocefan  
diploma  
direction  
disadvantage  
disagreeable  
disappoint

## D I

disaster  
disband  
disburden  
discipline  
discomfit  
discomm  
discompo  
disconso  
disconter  
discoura  
discount  
discredit  
discreet  
discrimin  
disdain  
disencun  
disfranch  
disgrace  
dishonest  
disingen  
dislocate  
disloyal  
dismemb  
disobedi  
disoblig  
disparag  
dispatch  
dispense  
display  
displeas  
disposse  
disprov  
dispute  
disquiet  
disrepu  
disrespe  
dissatisf  
dissemb  
dissent  
dissimu  
dissolva  
dissolut  
dissuag  
distaste  
distemp

## DIS

disaster  
disband  
disburden  
discipline  
discomfiture  
discommode  
discompose  
disconsolate  
discontent  
discourage  
discountenance  
discredit  
discreet  
discriminate  
disdain  
disencumber  
disfranchise  
disgraceful  
dishonesty  
disingenious  
dislocate  
disloyal  
dismember  
disobedient  
disoblige  
disparage  
dispatch  
dispenser  
display  
displeasure  
dispossess  
disprove  
dispute  
disquiet  
disrepute  
disrespectful  
dissatisfactory  
dissemble  
dissention  
dissimulation  
dissolvable  
dissolute  
disfluage  
distasteful  
distemper

## DIS

distiller  
distinction  
distinguish  
distraction  
distress  
distributor  
distrustful  
disturbance  
diversify  
divertisement  
dividend  
divination  
divinity  
divorcement  
divulge  
dizziness  
docibility  
doctorship  
document  
dolefully  
dolphin  
domestic  
domineer  
dominical  
donation  
dormitory  
doubtful  
doughty  
downward  
doxology  
drapery  
drawback  
draw-bridge  
dreadful  
dreamer  
dripping-pan  
driveller  
drollery  
dromedary  
dropfical  
drudgery  
druggist  
Druids  
drum-major  
dubiousness

## E A

ducatoon  
dudgeon  
dukedom  
dulcimer  
dumbness  
dunghill  
dungeon  
duskyish  
dusty  
duteous  
dutifully  
dutifulness  
duty  
dwarf  
dwarfish  
dweller  
dwelling  
dwindle  
dyer  
dyer-weed  
dynasty  
dyfentery

## E

Earl  
earnest  
ear-ring  
earth  
earthquake  
ear-wig  
easiness  
eaves-dropper  
ebony  
ebullition  
Ecclesiastes  
ecclesiastic  
echo  
eclipse  
ecliptic  
eclogue  
ecstasy  
eddy  
Eden  
edict  
edification  
edifice

## E L

edition  
education  
efface  
effectual  
effeminate  
efficacious  
efficient  
effigies  
efflation  
effluvium  
efflux  
effort  
effrontery  
effulgence  
effusion  
egregious  
Egypt  
ejaculation  
ejection  
elaborate  
elapsed  
elasticity  
elbow  
elder  
election  
electuary  
elegance  
elegy  
elemental  
elephant  
elevate  
eleven  
eligible  
elixir  
ellipsis  
elogy  
elopement  
eloquence  
eloquent  
elucidate  
elucidation  
elves  
Elyfian  
emaciate  
emasculate

## E M

embalm  
embargo  
embark  
embarrass  
embassy  
embattle  
embellish  
embezzle  
emblem  
embofs  
embowel  
embrace  
embolden  
embroider  
embroil  
embryo  
emerge  
emerods  
emigration  
eminent  
emolument  
emotion  
empannel  
emperor  
emphasis  
empire  
employ  
employment  
emprefs  
emulate  
emulgent  
enamel  
encamp  
enchantment  
enclosure  
encounter  
encourage  
encroach  
encumber  
endear  
endearment  
endeavour  
endive  
endow  
endure

## E N

enemy  
energy  
enervate  
enfeeble  
enfranchise  
engagement  
engine  
engineer  
engrave  
England  
engross  
enhance  
enigma  
enjoy  
enlarge  
enlighten  
enmity  
ennoble  
enormity  
enrich  
enrol  
ensample  
enshrine  
ensign  
entablature  
entail  
entangle  
entendre  
enterprize  
entertain  
enthral  
enthrone  
enthusiasm  
entice  
entitle  
entity  
entrails  
entrap  
envious  
environ  
enumerate  
enunciation  
envoy  
envy  
epact

## E P

ephemeris  
ephod  
epicure  
epicurean  
epidemical  
epigram  
epileptic  
epilogue  
episcopacy  
episode  
epistle  
epitaph  
epithet  
epitome  
epitomise  
equal  
equator  
equilatera  
equinox  
equipage  
equity  
equivocal  
eradicate  
erector  
erroneous  
eschear  
eschew  
escurial  
escutcheon  
espousals  
esquire  
essences  
establish  
estimate  
estranger  
eternal  
Ethiopia  
etymology  
evacuate  
evangelic  
eucharist  
event  
evermore  
evitable  
evidence



## E P

ephemeris  
ephod  
epicure  
epicurean  
epidemical  
epigram  
epileptic  
epilogue  
episcopacy  
episode  
epistle  
epitaph  
epithet  
epitome  
epitomise  
equal  
equator  
equilateral  
equinox  
equipage  
equity  
equivocal  
eradicate  
erector  
erroneous  
escheat  
eschew  
escurial  
escutcheon  
espousals  
esquire  
essences  
establish  
estimate  
estrangement  
eternal  
Ethiopian  
etymological  
evacuate  
evangelical  
eucharist  
event  
evermore  
evitable  
evidence

## E X

Europe  
evulsion  
exactor  
examine  
exasperate  
exchequer  
exclaim  
exclude  
execute  
exemplary  
exercise  
Exodus  
exonerate  
exorbitant  
exorcise  
expand  
expatiate  
expectation  
expedient  
expedition  
expel  
expensive  
experiment  
expertly  
expiration  
expire  
explain  
explanation  
explication  
explicit  
explode  
exploit  
expound  
express  
expulsion  
expunge  
extend  
extent  
exterminate  
external  
extinguish  
extirpate  
extol  
extort  
extract

## F A

extraordinary  
extravagant  
extremely  
extricate  
extrude  
extrusion  
exuberance  
exuberant  
exulcerate  
exult  
exultation  
eye  
eye-bright  
eye-brow  
eye-sight  
eye-sore  
eye-teeth  
Ezekiel

## F

Fabulous  
facetious  
facilitate  
faction  
factor  
faculty  
faint-hearted  
fairy  
faithful  
falcon  
fallacious  
fallible  
falsifier  
familiar  
familist  
famine  
famous  
famously  
fanatical  
fantastic  
fancy  
fardingale  
farenaceous  
farm  
farrier  
farthing

## F I

fascinate  
fashionable  
fastidious  
fastness  
fastening  
fatality  
fatherless  
fatigue  
fatuate  
faulchion  
favourable  
fawning  
fearfully  
feather  
feature  
February  
fecundity  
federal  
feebleness  
felicitate  
fell-monger  
fellowship  
felonious  
femalæ  
feminine  
fermentation  
ferocity  
fertile  
fervent  
fervency  
festival  
fetlock  
feudal  
feverish  
feuel  
fibre  
fibrous  
fickleness  
fictitious  
fiddle  
fidelity  
fierceness  
fifteenth  
figment  
figurative

## F L

filament  
filiation  
filter  
filthiness  
filtrate  
filtration  
finable  
finance  
fineness  
finery  
finger's-breadth  
finical  
finisher  
finite  
firmament  
firmly  
firstling  
fiscal  
fishermen  
fistula  
fixedness  
flabby  
flaccid  
flagelet  
flagging  
flagitious  
flagrancy  
flagrant  
flambeau  
Flanders  
flanker  
flash  
flatly  
flatterer  
flatulent  
flaunting  
flaxen  
fleet  
flegmatic  
Flemish  
fleshy  
flexibility  
flexible  
flimsy  
flinchers

## F O

flippant  
floatage  
Flora  
Florence  
Florentine  
florid  
flounce  
flounder  
flourish  
flower-de-luce  
fluctuate  
fluctuation  
fluently  
fluidity  
flummery  
flustered  
fluxibility  
fodder  
foggy  
foible  
foldage  
foliage  
follower  
fomentation  
fondling  
fool-hardiness  
foolishness  
footmen  
foppery  
foppish  
forbearance  
forbidden  
forceps  
forcible  
fordable  
fore-appoint  
fore-armed  
fore-cast  
fore-close  
fore-door  
fore-fault  
forefathers  
fore-finger  
fore-front  
foreigner

## F O

fore-judge  
foreknow  
forenoon  
foreordain  
forerunner  
forespeak  
forest  
fore-teeth  
forethou  
forfeit  
forgetful  
forgery  
forlorn  
formality  
fornication  
forefate  
forthcom  
fortificat  
fortitude  
fortunate  
forward  
foul  
foundati  
foundlin  
fourteen  
fowling-  
fractious  
fragrant  
fragment  
frailty  
France  
fraternit  
fradulen  
freehold  
freight  
friendsh  
frolicks  
fructific  
frugality  
frying-p  
funeral  
furious  
furnitur  
futurity  
G  
Gadding  
gaggle

F O

fore-judge  
foreknowledge  
forenoon  
foreordain  
forerunner  
forespeak  
forest  
fore-teeth  
forethought  
forfeit  
forgetful  
forgery  
forlorn  
formality  
fornication  
forefake  
forthcoming  
fortification  
fortitude  
fortunate  
forward  
foul  
foundation  
foundling  
fourteenth  
fowling-piece  
fractious  
fragrant  
fragment  
frailty  
France  
fraternity  
fradulent  
freehold  
freight  
friendship  
frolicksome  
fructification  
frugality  
frying-pan  
funeral  
furious  
furniture  
futurity

G

Gadding  
gaggle

G A

gaiety  
gainfully  
gainstand  
Galenical  
galeons  
gallantry  
gallery  
galley-pot  
gallicism  
gallon  
gallop  
Galloway  
gambol  
gamester  
gamut  
gang  
gangrene  
Ganymede  
garbler  
garbles  
gardener  
gargarize  
garland  
garment  
garnisher  
garniture  
garretteer  
garrison  
garrulous  
gasconade  
gaudy  
gavel-kind  
gavelock  
gazette  
gazetteer  
geese  
gelding  
geminate  
genealogical  
generalissimo  
generality  
generation  
generosity  
generous  
Genesis  
Geneva  
genial

G E

gennet  
genteel  
gentian  
gentilism  
gentleman  
gentlewoman  
gentry  
genuine  
geography  
geometry  
Georgicks  
germination  
gestation  
gesticulation  
gesture  
gewgaws  
ghastly  
ghostliness  
ghostly  
giant  
gibble-gabble  
giddiness  
gilder  
gillflower  
ginger-bread  
gingler  
girdle  
girl  
girt  
gizzard  
gladiator  
gladness  
glanders  
glazier  
gleam  
glebe  
glittering  
globular  
gloomy  
glorification  
glorious  
glossary  
glow-worm  
glutinous  
gluttony  
Gnostics  
goaler



## G R

goatish  
goblet  
godfather  
godmother  
goggle-eyed  
Golgotha  
gonorrhoea  
gooseberry  
gorgeous  
gormandize  
gospel  
gossiping  
Gothic  
Goths  
governers  
government  
governor  
gown  
gracefulness  
graciously  
gradual  
grammarian  
grampus  
granado  
granary  
grandame  
grandee  
grandeur  
grandfather  
grandmother  
grandfire  
grannum  
grantee  
grantor  
granulation  
grasier  
grasshopper  
grafs-plot  
grassy  
grateful  
gratification  
gratings  
gratitude  
gratulatory  
grave  
greasy  
greatness

## G R

Grecian  
Grecism  
green-house  
grenadier  
Gregorian  
grew  
grey-hound  
grievous  
grim  
grissel  
gritty  
grizly  
groan  
grocery  
grogram  
gross  
grotto  
grovelling  
ground-ivy  
group  
growl  
grubbage  
gruel  
grumble  
guarantee  
guardian  
gudgeon  
guileless  
guinea  
gunpowder  
gush  
gutter  
gymnastics  
H  
Haberdasher  
habitation  
hackle  
haddock  
haggard  
Hague  
hainous  
halbert  
halcyon  
half-moon  
halliards  
halloo  
hallow

## H A

hamlet  
hammer  
hamper  
hamstring  
handkerchief  
handmaid  
handsome  
handy  
hanger-on  
happiness  
harangue  
harbinger  
harbour  
hardly  
hair-brained  
harlequin  
harlot  
harmless  
harmonious  
harness  
harpooner  
harpicord  
harras  
harshness  
hartshorn  
harvest  
haslock  
hasty  
hatches  
hateful  
haughty  
haughtiness  
havock  
hautboy  
hawser  
hazardous  
headborough  
healthful  
hearten  
heartburning  
heartiness  
heath-cock  
heathenism  
heavenly  
heaviness  
Hebraism  
hecatomb

## H E

hectic  
headful  
heifer  
heighten  
hellebore  
Hellestone  
hell-hour  
hellish  
helm  
helpful  
helter-skelter  
hemisphere  
hemlock  
henceforth  
hen-heard  
herbalist  
herald  
Herculean  
hereditary  
hereditary  
heretical  
heritage  
hermaphrodite  
hermit  
Herodian  
hero  
heroical  
heroine  
herring  
hesitate  
hesitation  
heterodox  
heterogeneous  
hexagon  
hexameter  
hiccups  
hidebound  
hideous  
hierarchy  
hieroglyph  
hillock  
hireling  
hiss  
hissing  
historian  
historiography  
hitherto

## H E

hectic  
 headful  
 heifer  
 heighten  
 hellebore  
 Hellefpont  
 hell-hound  
 hellish  
 helm  
 helpful  
 helter-skelter  
 hemisphere  
 hemlock  
 henceforth  
 hen-hearted  
 herbalist  
 herald  
 Herculean  
 hereditament  
 hereditary  
 heretical  
 heritage  
 hermaphrodite  
 hermit  
 Herodians  
 hero  
 heroic  
 heroine  
 herring  
 hesitate  
 hesitation  
 heterodox  
 heterogeneous  
 hexagon  
 hexameter  
 hiccup  
 hidebound  
 hideous  
 hierarchy  
 hieroglyphic  
 hillock  
 hireling  
 hiss  
 hissing  
 historian  
 historiographer  
 hithermost

## H O

Hittites  
 Hivites  
 hoarseness  
 hobgoblin  
 hodge-podge  
 hoghead  
 Holland  
 holiness  
 hollow  
 holyhock  
 homage  
 homeliness  
 Homer  
 homespun  
 homicide  
 homily  
 homogeneous  
 homologous  
 honest  
 honeycomb  
 honey-moon  
 honorary  
 honourable  
 hooked  
 hopeful  
 hops  
 Horeb  
 horizon  
 horizontally  
 hornet  
 horological  
 horoscope  
 horrid  
 horse-leech  
 horsemanship  
 horse-radish  
 Hosanna  
 hospitable  
 host  
 hostile  
 hostility  
 hotcockles  
 hotch-potch  
 household  
 hubbub  
 huckster  
 hug

## H U

huge  
 Huguenot  
 humanist  
 humanity  
 humanize  
 humble  
 humidity  
 humiliation  
 humourist  
 hunch-backed  
 Hungary  
 hungry  
 hunks  
 hunting  
 hurler  
 hurry  
 hurricane  
 hurtful  
 husband  
 hussars  
 hussy  
 hut  
 hutch  
 huzza  
 hydra  
 hydraulics  
 hydrographer  
 hydromel  
 hydrophical  
 hymn  
 hyperbole  
 hyperbolic  
 hypochondriac  
 hypocrisy  
 hypocrite  
 hypostatic  
 hypothetical  
 hysterical  
 hysterical  
 I  
 Jacobite  
 jagged  
 jail-bird  
 Jamaica  
 iambic  
 jangle  
 janizary

**J E**  
 Jansenism  
 jangle  
 January  
 Japan  
 japanner  
 jar  
 jargon  
 javelin  
 jaundice  
 icicle  
 ichnography  
 ideal  
 identical  
 idiom  
 idiotism  
 idleness  
 idolater  
 idolize  
 jealous  
 jeer  
 Jeffrey  
 Jehovah  
 jejune  
 jennet  
 jeopardy  
 jerkin  
 jeffamia  
 jester  
 Jesus  
 Jesuitical  
 jeweller  
 ignoble  
 ignominious  
 ignoramus  
 ignorance  
 illegal  
 illegitimate  
 illicit  
 illiterate  
 ill-natured  
 illogical  
 illuminate  
 illusion  
 illustrate  
 illustrious  
 imagery  
 imaginary

**I M**  
 imagination  
 imbibe  
 imbitter  
 imbrue  
 imitable  
 imitative  
 imitator  
 immaculate  
 immaterial  
 immature  
 immediate  
 immemorial  
 immense  
 immerse  
 immethodical  
 imminent  
 immoderate  
 immodest  
 immoral  
 immortality  
 immoveable  
 immunity  
 immutably  
 impale  
 impannel  
 imparlance  
 impartial  
 impassable  
 impatience  
 impeach  
 impede  
 impenetrable  
 impenitence  
 imperative  
 imperfect  
 imperial  
 imperious  
 impertinence  
 impetuous  
 impious  
 implacable  
 implead  
 implicit  
 implore  
 impolite  
 importation  
 importune

**I N**  
 imposition  
 impossible  
 imposture  
 impotence  
 impoverish  
 impracticable  
 imprecate  
 impregnate  
 impress  
 impression  
 imprimis  
 imprint  
 imprison  
 improbable  
 improper  
 impropriety  
 improveable  
 improvement  
 imprudence  
 imprudent  
 impudence  
 impugn  
 impulse  
 impunity  
 imputation  
 inability  
 inaccessible  
 inaction  
 inactivity  
 inadvertency  
 inalienable  
 inamorato  
 inanimate  
 inarticulate  
 inaugurate  
 inauspicious  
 incamp  
 incantation  
 incapacitate  
 incarcerate  
 incendiary  
 incense  
 incentive  
 incessant  
 incestuous  
 inchanter  
 incident

**I N**  
 incircle  
 inciteme  
 inclemenc  
 inclinable  
 incloister  
 inclosure  
 include  
 inclusivel  
 incognito  
 incoheren  
 incommo  
 incommu  
 incompad  
 incompar  
 incompar  
 incompet  
 incomple  
 incompre  
 incongru  
 inconnec  
 inconfide  
 inconsiste  
 incontine  
 incontest  
 inconven  
 incorpor  
 incorrec  
 incorrigi  
 incorrup  
 incredibi  
 incredul  
 incroach  
 incubus  
 inculcate  
 incumbe  
 incumb  
 incur  
 incurabl  
 incurfio  
 indebted  
 indecen  
 indecor  
 indefati  
 indefens  
 indelible  
 indemn  
 indentu



## I N

incircle  
incitement  
inclemency  
inclinable  
incloister  
inclosure  
include  
inclusively  
incognito  
incoherent  
incommode  
incommunicable  
incompact  
incomparable  
incompass  
incompetent  
incomplete  
incomprehensible  
incongruous  
inconnection  
inconsiderate  
inconsistent  
incontinent  
incontestable  
inconvenient  
incorporate  
incorrect  
incorrigible  
incorrupt  
incredibility  
incredulous  
incroach  
incubus  
inculcate  
incumbent  
incumbrance  
incur  
incurable  
incurfion  
indebted  
indecenty  
indecorum  
indefatigable  
indefensible  
indelible  
indemnity  
indenture

## I N

independent  
index  
India  
Indian  
indication  
indictment  
indifferent  
indigence  
indignation  
indignity  
indirectly  
indiscreet  
indiscretion  
indiscriminate  
indispensible  
indisposed  
indisputable  
indistinct  
indite  
individual  
indivisibility  
indocible  
indolence  
indorse  
indubitable  
induce  
induction  
indulgent  
indurable  
indurate  
industry  
inexhaustible  
inexorable  
infallible  
infatuate  
infidelity  
inflexible  
ingenuity  
ingratitude  
inheritance  
injection  
injurious  
injustice  
innocent  
innovate  
innumerable  
inobservance

## I N

incculation  
inoffensive  
inordinate  
inquisition  
inrollment  
insatiable  
inscription  
inseparable  
insolent  
inspiration  
instability  
instrument  
intemperate  
intendment  
intercessor  
intercommuning  
interment  
interrogate  
interwoven  
inthalment  
intolerable  
intrenchment  
intrigue  
inveterate  
invincible  
invulnerable  
jocund  
joiner  
iron  
irrecoverable  
isthmus  
juncture  
justification  
Justinian  
juggle  
jutt  
juvenile  
juvenility  
ivy

## K

Keeness  
keeper  
keg  
kelp  
ken  
kennel  
kerchief

## K I

Kermes  
kern  
kernel  
kersey  
ketch  
kettle  
key  
kibe  
kibe-heels  
kickshaw  
kid  
kidnapper  
kidney-bean  
kilderkin  
kill  
killer  
kiln  
kin  
kind  
kindle  
kindness  
kindred  
kine  
kingdom  
kingly  
kinsman  
kinswoman  
kirtle  
kiss  
kitchen  
kitten  
kittle  
knack  
knaggy  
knapsack  
knave  
knavery  
knavishly  
knead  
kneader  
kneel  
knee-string  
knell  
knew  
knick-knacks  
knife  
knighthood

## L A

knitter  
knobby  
knocker  
knocking  
knot  
knottiness  
knotty  
knowingly  
knowledge  
knubble  
knuckle

## L

Labyrinth  
lachrymation  
Laconic  
lactation  
ladyship  
lambent  
lambkin  
lameness  
lamentable  
Lamina  
lampoon  
land-loper  
landscape  
language  
languid  
languor  
lank  
lanthron  
lapidation  
lapwing  
larboard  
larceny  
larder  
large  
lasciviously  
lash  
lassitude  
latchet  
Lateran  
lather  
latitude  
latten  
laudable  
laudanum  
lavender

## L E

laver  
laughing-stock  
lavish  
laudress  
lawless  
laxness  
lay-brother  
Lazaretto  
lazinefs  
lead  
leaf  
league  
learning  
lease  
least  
leather  
lechery  
lecherous  
lecture  
leech  
leek  
leese  
lee-way  
legacy  
legible  
legion  
legislature  
legitimate  
lemonade  
lengthen  
lenity  
lent  
leopard  
leper  
leprosy  
lesson  
letter  
Levant  
levee  
Levitical  
lewdness  
lexicographer  
lexicon  
liable  
libellous  
liberality  
libertine

## L I

librarian  
licence  
licentious  
lictors  
lieutenant  
life-guard  
lift  
ligature  
lightenin  
likelihood  
likeness  
limber  
limbo  
limner  
limp  
line  
lineamen  
linger  
linguist  
liniment  
link-boy  
linsley-w  
liquefact  
liquor  
lisp  
listen  
litany  
literally  
literate  
litigious  
liturgy  
livelihood  
liveliness  
liver  
lixivious  
lixivium  
lizard  
loadstone  
loathsome  
lobby  
local  
locket  
locust  
locution  
lodgment  
lofty  
log

## L I

librarian  
 licence  
 licentious  
 listers  
 lieutenantcy  
 life-guard  
 lift  
 ligature  
 lightening  
 likelihood  
 likeness  
 limber  
 limbo  
 dinner  
 limp  
 line  
 lineament  
 linger  
 linguist  
 liniment  
 link-boy  
 linsey-woolsey  
 liquefaction  
 liquor  
 list  
 listen  
 litany  
 literally  
 literate  
 litigious  
 liturgy  
 livelihood  
 liveliness  
 liver  
 lixivious  
 lixivium  
 lizard  
 loadstone  
 loathsome  
 lobby  
 local  
 locket  
 locust  
 locution  
 lodgment  
 lofty  
 log

## L O

logarithm  
 logger-head  
 logician  
 logwood  
 loin  
 loiterer  
 Lombard  
 London  
 lonesome  
 long-boat  
 longevity  
 longitude  
 long-shanks  
 long-winded  
 looby  
 loof  
 looking-glass  
 loom  
 loop  
 loop-lace  
 looseness  
 lop  
 loquacious  
 loquacity  
 lordly  
 lorimer  
 loss  
 lot  
 lothsome  
 lottery  
 loudly  
 loving  
 Louis-d'or  
 lousiness  
 low-countries  
 lowness  
 lowliness  
 loyal  
 lozenge  
 lubricify  
 lucid  
 Lucifer  
 lucky  
 lucrative  
 lucubration  
 ludicrous  
 luggage

## L U

lukewarmly  
 luminous  
 lumpishness  
 lunacy  
 lunar  
 lunatic  
 lung-wort  
 luscious  
 lusty  
 Luther  
 luxate  
 luxation  
 luxurious  
 lye  
 Lydia  
 lymph  
 lymphatic  
 lyre  
 lyric  
 lyrical  
 M  
 Macaroni  
 Maccabees  
 mace-bearer  
 macerate  
 Machiavellian  
 machination  
 machine  
 mackerel  
 madam  
 madcap  
 madness  
 madrigal  
 magazine  
 maggot  
 magic  
 magician  
 magisterially  
 magistrate  
 magnanimous  
 magnet  
 magnificate  
 magnificence  
 magnify  
 magpy  
 Mahometan  
 maiden



M A  
 majestic  
 mail  
 mainmast  
 mainprize  
 maintain  
 maintenance  
 major  
 maker  
 malady  
 Malaga  
 malapert  
 malecontent  
 malediction  
 malevolence  
 malice  
 malicious  
 malign  
 malignant  
 maukin  
 malleable  
 mallows  
 malmsey  
 maltster  
 mamma  
 mammoth  
 mammon  
 manacles  
 management  
 Manchester  
 mandamus  
 mandarin  
 mandate  
 mandrake  
 manful  
 mange  
 mangle  
 manhood  
 Manichees  
 manifestation  
 manifesto  
 manifold  
 mankind  
 manly  
 manna  
 mannerly  
 man-slaughter  
 manor

M A  
 mansion  
 mantle  
 mantua  
 manual  
 manufactory  
 manufacture  
 manumission  
 manure  
 manuscript  
 maple  
 marble  
 marchioness  
 margin  
 margrave  
 marigold  
 mariner  
 marjoram  
 maritime  
 market  
 marketable  
 marmalade  
 marquis  
 marriage  
 Mars  
 marshal  
 marsh-mallows  
 marrow  
 martial  
 martingal  
 martyr  
 martyrdom  
 martyrology  
 marvel  
 marvellous  
 masculine  
 mason  
 masquerade  
 massacre  
 massy  
 master  
 master-piece  
 mastich  
 mastiff  
 material  
 mathematical  
 mathematics  
 mathematician

M E  
 matins  
 matricide  
 matriculate  
 matrimonial  
 matrimony  
 matrix  
 matron  
 matrosses  
 matted  
 matter  
 mattock  
 mattress  
 maturate  
 mature  
 maudlin  
 maugre  
 maukin  
 maw-worms  
 maxim  
 Maximilian  
 May-day  
 mayor  
 mayoralty  
 mayores  
 May-pole  
 mazarine  
 mead  
 meadow  
 meagre  
 meal  
 mealy-mouthed  
 meander  
 meaning  
 meanness  
 measles  
 measurable  
 measure  
 mechanic  
 mechanism  
 medal  
 medallion  
 mediate  
 mediator  
 mediatrix  
 medicament  
 medicine  
 medicinal

M E  
 mediocrity  
 meditation  
 Mediterranean  
 medium  
 medley  
 megrim  
 medullary  
 meekness  
 melancholy  
 melancholy  
 melasses  
 melilot  
 meliorate  
 mellifluous  
 mellow  
 melodious  
 melody  
 melt  
 member  
 membranous  
 memento  
 memoirs  
 memorabilia  
 memoranda  
 memoria  
 memory  
 menace  
 mendicant  
 menial  
 menses  
 mensural  
 mensuration  
 mention  
 mental  
 mercantile  
 mercenary  
 merchant  
 merchant  
 merciful  
 Mercury  
 meridian  
 meridian  
 merit  
 meritorious  
 mermaid  
 merriment  
 merriment

## M E

mediocrity  
 meditation  
 Mediterranean  
 medium  
 medley  
 megrim  
 medullary  
 meekness  
 melancholic  
 melancholy  
 melasses  
 melilot  
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 mensuration  
 mention  
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 mercenary  
 merchandize  
 merchant  
 merciful  
 Mercury  
 meridian  
 meridional  
 merit  
 meritorious  
 mermaid  
 merriment  
 merriness

## M I

mess  
 message  
 messenger  
 Messiah  
 messuage  
 metal  
 metaline  
 metamorphose  
 metaphor  
 metaphysics  
 meteor  
 method  
 methodist  
 metropolis  
 mettle  
 metre  
 Michael  
 Michaelmas  
 micography  
 micrometer  
 microscope  
 middlemost  
 midshipman  
 midsummer  
 midwinter  
 midwife  
 mightly  
 migration  
 mildew  
 mildness  
 militant  
 military  
 milliner  
 Milton  
 mimic  
 mimical  
 mimicry  
 mince  
 mindful  
 mineral  
 Minerva  
 mingle  
 miniature  
 minion  
 minister  
 ministration  
 minority

## M O

minstrelsey  
 minuets  
 minute  
 miraculous  
 mirror  
 mirth  
 misadventure  
 misbecome  
 miscarriage  
 miscellany  
 mischance  
 mischievous  
 misconstrue  
 miscreant  
 misdoubt  
 misery  
 misfortune  
 misgovern  
 mislead  
 mismanage  
 misname  
 mispend  
 mishapen  
 missionaries  
 mistaken  
 mistrust  
 mistiness  
 misfuse  
 mitigate  
 mittimus  
 mixen  
 mixture  
 mob  
 mockery  
 model  
 moderate  
 moderation  
 modesty  
 modern  
 modify  
 modulation  
 moiety  
 moist  
 moisture  
 molestation  
 mollify  
 moment

M U  
 monarchy  
 Monday  
 mongrel  
 monkey  
 monopoly  
 monsoon  
 monument  
 monstrous  
 moody  
 moor-hen  
 mop  
 moppet  
 morality  
 moreover  
 morning  
 Morocco  
 mortality  
 mortal  
 mortar  
 mortgage  
 mortify  
 Moses  
 mosses  
 mosque  
 mother  
 motionless  
 motive  
 moveable  
 moulder  
 mountain  
 mountebank  
 mourner  
 mouth  
 much  
 muckworm  
 muddy  
 multiplicity  
 multiply  
 multitude  
 munificent  
 murmur  
 muscle  
 Muscovy  
 muses  
 museum  
 mushroom  
 music

N E  
 musket  
 mustard  
 mutable  
 mutation  
 mutinous  
 mutter  
 mutton  
 mutual  
 muzzle  
 myriad  
 myrth  
 myrtle  
 mysterious  
 mystery  
 mystical  
 mythological  
 mythologist  
 mythology

N  
 Napkin  
 Narcissus  
 narrate  
 narrative  
 narrow  
 national  
 nativity  
 natural  
 naturalize  
 naughtiness  
 navigable  
 nauseous  
 Nazarine  
 nebulous  
 nearness  
 necessary  
 necessitous  
 neckcloth  
 necromancer  
 needful  
 needle  
 nefarious  
 negation  
 negative  
 negligence  
 negotiate  
 negotiator  
 negroes

N I  
 neighbour  
 neighing  
 nephew  
 Neptune  
 Nereids  
 nerve  
 nestling  
 Netherlands  
 nethermost  
 nettings  
 nettle  
 nevermore  
 nevertheless  
 neutrality  
 new-fangled  
 newness  
 Nicene  
 niceness  
 nickname  
 niece  
 niggard  
 nightingale  
 night raven  
 nightshade  
 nightwalker  
 nimble  
 nimbleness  
 nineteen  
 ninety  
 ninthly  
 nipple  
 nitious  
 nobility  
 nobleman  
 nocturnal  
 noggin  
 noise  
 noisome  
 nomenclator  
 nomenclature  
 nominal  
 nominate  
 nomination  
 nominative  
 nonage  
 non-appearance  
 non-compliance

N O  
 nonconform  
 nonconfor  
 non-entity  
 non-natura  
 nonplus  
 non-resista  
 nonsense  
 nonsensica  
 nonsolvent  
 nonsuit  
 nook  
 noon  
 noose  
 northerly  
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 nostril  
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 notation  
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 nourishing  
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## N O

nonconformist  
 nonconformity  
 non-entity  
 non-naturals  
 nonplus  
 non-resistance  
 nonsense  
 nonsensically  
 nonsolvent  
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 noviciate  
 nourishing  
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 noxious  
 nubilous  
 nudity  
 nuisance  
 nullify  
 numberless  
 numerable  
 numeral  
 numerator

## O B

numerous  
 numscul  
 nuncio  
 nuncupation  
 nuncupative  
 nunnery  
 nuptial  
 nursery  
 nurture  
 nutmeg  
 nutrition  
 nutritive  
 nymph

## O

Oaker  
 oath  
 oatmeal  
 obdurate  
 obedience  
 obeisance  
 obelisk  
 obey  
 objection  
 objector  
 oblation  
 obligate  
 obligation  
 obligatory  
 oblige  
 obligee  
 oblique  
 obliterate  
 oblivion  
 oblong  
 obloquy  
 obnoxious  
 obscene  
 obscenity  
 obscurity  
 obsequious  
 observable  
 observant  
 observation  
 observator  
 observatory  
 observe  
 obsolete

## O D

obstacle  
 obstinacy  
 obitinate  
 obstreperous  
 obstruction  
 obtain  
 obtruder  
 obtrusion  
 obviate  
 obvious  
 occasional  
 occult  
 occupation  
 occupy  
 occur  
 occurrence  
 ocean  
 Octagon  
 octangular  
 octave  
 octavo  
 October  
 ocular  
 oculist  
 odious  
 odiously  
 odour  
 odoriferous  
 odorous  
 œconomy  
 œconomics  
 offal  
 offence  
 offensive  
 offering  
 offertory  
 office  
 officer  
 officiate  
 officiousness  
 off-scouring  
 off-sets  
 offspring  
 oftentimes  
 ogle  
 ogling  
 oil

## O P

ointment  
okham  
old  
Olympaid  
Olympic  
ombre  
Omega  
omen  
ominous  
omission  
omnipotence  
omnipresence  
omniscience  
onerate  
onion  
opaque  
opacous  
opakeness  
openness  
opera  
operate  
operation  
operator  
ophthalmic  
opiate  
opinion  
opinionative  
opinionated  
opium  
opponent  
opportune  
opportunately  
opportunity  
opposite  
opposition  
oppress  
oppression  
oppressive  
oppressor  
opprobrious  
opprobrium  
oppugn  
optic glass  
opulence  
opulent  
oracle  
oracular

## O R

oral  
orange  
orangery  
oration  
orator  
oratory  
orb  
orbicular  
orbit  
orchard  
orchestra  
ordain  
orderly  
ordinance  
ordinary  
ordination  
ordonnance  
ordure  
organ  
organical  
organist  
organization  
organized  
orient  
oriental  
orifice  
origin  
original  
Orion  
orison  
ornament  
ornamental  
Oroonoko  
orphan  
orphanism  
Orpheus  
orthodox  
orthographer  
orthographical  
orthography  
oscillation  
osier  
Osiris  
osification  
Ostend  
ostentation  
ostentatious

## O V

ostler  
ostrich  
otherwise  
otter  
Ottoman  
oval  
ovation  
oven  
ouch  
over-act  
over-balance  
over-bear  
over-board  
over-charge  
over-clouded  
overcome  
over-done  
overflow  
overgrown  
over-loaden  
over-match  
overplus  
over-power  
over-poise  
over-reach  
overseer  
over-shadow  
over-top  
overture  
overturn  
over-value  
over-weening  
overwhelm  
ought  
ounce  
our  
outcast  
outlandish  
outlaw  
outlawry  
outward  
outrageous  
outrun  
outwardly  
out-works  
ouze  
owl

## P A

owper  
ox  
over  
oyes  
oyster  
ozier  
P  
Pace  
pacificati  
pacific  
pack  
packet  
paction  
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padlock  
Padua  
Paganism  
page  
pageant  
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pagod  
pail  
pain  
painful  
painter  
painting  
palace  
palatable  
palate  
Palantir  
paleness  
palisade  
palfrey  
Palladium  
pallet  
palliate  
palliati  
pallid  
palmer  
palmist  
palm-tree  
palpable  
palpitate  
palsy  
paltry  
pampe  
pamph

## P A

owner  
ox  
over  
oyes  
oyster  
ozier  
P  
Pace  
pacification  
pacific  
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paction  
paddle  
padlock  
Padua  
Paganism  
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painful  
painter  
painting  
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palatable  
palate  
Palantine  
paleness  
pallade  
palfrey  
Palladium  
pallet  
palliate  
palliatives  
pallid  
palmer-worm  
palmistry  
palm-tree  
palpable  
palpitation  
palsy  
paltry  
pamper  
pamphlet

## P A

pamphleteer  
pan  
pancakes  
Pandefts  
pander  
pane  
Pandora  
pangyric  
pangs  
panic  
pannage  
pannel  
panier  
pant  
pantaloons  
painting  
Pantheon  
panther  
pantomime  
pantry  
pap  
pappa  
papacy  
papist  
papistry  
par  
parable  
parabola  
parabolical  
parade  
paradise  
paradox  
paragraph  
parallel  
paralytic  
paramount  
paramour  
parapet  
paraphrase  
paraphrastical  
parasite  
parboil  
parcel  
parch  
parchment  
pardon  
pardonable

Z

## P A

parent  
parentage  
parental  
parenthesis  
parish  
parishioner  
parley  
parliament  
parliamentary  
parlour  
parmesan  
parochial  
parole  
paroquette  
parricide  
parrot  
party  
parsimonious  
parsimony  
parsley  
parsnip  
parson  
partake  
parterre  
partiality  
participate  
participle  
particle  
particular  
particularity  
particularly  
parting  
partisan  
partition  
partnership  
partridge  
party  
pasch  
pasquinade  
passable  
passage  
passenger  
passible  
passion  
passionate  
passive  
passover



## P A

passport  
 paste-board  
 pastime  
 pastor  
 pastry  
 pastry-cock  
 pasturage  
 pasture  
 patch-box  
 pate  
 patent  
 patcher  
 patentee  
 path  
 pathetic  
 pathological  
 pathos  
 patience  
 patient  
 patriarch  
 patriarchal  
 patrician  
 patrimonial  
 patrimony  
 patriot  
 patriotism  
 patrol  
 patron  
 patronage  
 patronize  
 pattern  
 paucity  
 pavement  
 pavilion  
 pause  
 pawn  
 pawnbroker  
 payable  
 payment  
 peaceable  
 peacock  
 pearl  
 peasant  
 pebble  
 peccant  
 pectoral  
 peculiar

## P E

pecuniary  
 pedagogue  
 pedantic  
 pedigree  
 pedit-baptism  
 peel  
 peep  
 peer  
 peevish  
 peevishness  
 Pegasus  
 Pelagians  
 pelican  
 pellmell  
 pellucid  
 penal  
 penalty  
 penance  
 pence  
 pencil  
 pendant  
 pendulum  
 penetrable  
 penetrate  
 penetration  
 peninsula  
 penitence  
 penitent  
 penknife  
 penny  
 penny-royal  
 pension  
 pensionary  
 pensive  
 pensiveness  
 pentagon  
 pentateuch  
 Pentecost  
 penurious  
 pepper  
 peradventure  
 perambulation  
 perceive  
 perception  
 perdition  
 peregrination  
 peremptory

## P E

peremptorily  
 perennial  
 perfect  
 perfection  
 perfidious  
 perfidiousness  
 perfidy  
 perforate  
 perforce  
 perform  
 perfume  
 perhaps  
 pericranium  
 perilous  
 period  
 periodical  
 peripatetic  
 periphery  
 perish  
 perishable  
 perjure  
 perjury  
 periwig  
 periwinkle  
 permanent  
 permission  
 permit  
 permutation  
 pernicious  
 peroration  
 perpendicular  
 perpetrate  
 perpetual  
 perpetuity  
 perplex  
 perquisites  
 Persia  
 persecute  
 perseverance  
 persevere  
 persist  
 personable  
 personage  
 personality  
 personate  
 perspective  
 perspicuity

## P E

perspicuous  
 perspiration  
 persuasive  
 persuasion  
 pertain  
 pertinacious  
 pertinence  
 pertinent  
 perturbate  
 Peru  
 perverse  
 pervert  
 perusal  
 Peruvian  
 pestilence  
 petition  
 petrification  
 pettifogg  
 petulancy  
 pewter  
 phantasm  
 Pharisee  
 philanthropy  
 philology  
 philosophy  
 phlebotomy  
 phlegma  
 Phosphorus  
 phrase  
 Phrygian  
 physic  
 physician  
 physiognomy  
 piazza  
 pickle  
 Picts  
 picture  
 pierce  
 piety  
 pigeon  
 pigmy  
 pilchard  
 pilgrim  
 pilot  
 pinnacle  
 pirate  
 pistol

## P E

perspicuous  
 perspiration  
 persuasive  
 persuasion  
 pertain  
 pertinacious  
 pertinence  
 pertinent  
 perturbation  
 Peru  
 perverse  
 pervert  
 perusal  
 Peruvian  
 pestilence  
 petition  
 petrification  
 pettifogger  
 petulancy  
 pewter  
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 Pharisee  
 philanthropy  
 philologer  
 philosopher  
 phlebotomy  
 phlegmatic  
 Phosphorus  
 phrase  
 Phrygian  
 physic  
 physician  
 physiognomy  
 piazza  
 pickle  
 Picts  
 picture  
 pierce  
 piety  
 pigeon  
 pigmy  
 pilchard  
 pilgrimage  
 pilot  
 pinnacle  
 pirate  
 pistol

## P O

pistole  
 pitcher  
 pitiful  
 plagiarist  
 plaint  
 plaister  
 plantation  
 plausible  
 plant  
 pleasant  
 pleasure  
 pliant  
 plough  
 plumb  
 plunder  
 plunge  
 pneumatical  
 poach  
 pocket  
 poetry  
 poignant  
 poison  
 political  
 politician  
 polisher  
 polite  
 polling  
 pollute  
 polygamy  
 polygraphy  
 pome-citron  
 pommel  
 pompous  
 pond  
 ponderous  
 pontificate  
 pope  
 popinjay  
 populace  
 populous  
 porcupine  
 pork  
 porringer  
 portend  
 porter  
 positive  
 possession

## P R

possible  
 postage  
 posterior  
 posthumous  
 postscript  
 postpone  
 posture  
 potentate  
 poultry  
 powder  
 practicable  
 pragmatical  
 praise  
 prawn  
 prayer  
 preacher  
 precarious  
 precaution  
 precedence  
 precipitant  
 predestinate  
 predilection  
 pre-eminence  
 preference  
 pregnancy  
 prejudice  
 prelate  
 preliminary  
 premature  
 prenomination  
 pre-occupy  
 preparation  
 preposterous  
 presbyterian  
 presence  
 president  
 pretender  
 prevaricate  
 primitive  
 principal  
 principle  
 priority  
 privacy  
 prodigality  
 prodigious  
 professor  
 profligate

## P U

progression  
 promiscuous  
 property  
 proposal  
 propriety  
 providence  
 prudence  
 public  
 publisher  
 puerility  
 puffing  
 pugil  
 puerfant  
 pulchritude  
 pullet  
 pulmonary  
 pulpit  
 pulsation  
 pulverize  
 pumice  
 pummel  
 pumpkin  
 punch  
 punchinello  
 punchion  
 punctilio  
 punctuation  
 puncture  
 pungency  
 pungently  
 punish  
 punishment  
 puppet  
 puppy  
 purblind  
 purchase  
 purity  
 purgation  
 purgatory  
 purification  
 puritanism  
 purling  
 purloin  
 purple  
 purport  
 purpose  
 purring

## P U

purser  
 pursue  
 pursuance  
 pursuit  
 pursuivant  
 purvey  
 purveyance  
 purulent  
 pushing  
 pusillanimity  
 puss  
 pustulous  
 putative  
 put-off  
 putrefaction  
 putresy  
 putrid  
 putty  
 puzzle  
 pye  
 pygmy  
 pyramid  
 Pythagoras  
 Pythagorean  
 Q  
 Quadragesima  
 quadrangle  
 quadrangular  
 quadrant  
 quadrat  
 quadrate  
 quadrature  
 quadripartite  
 quadripartition  
 quadrissyllable  
 quadrupede  
 quadruple  
 quadruplication  
 quaffer  
 quagmire  
 quail  
 quaint  
 quaintly  
 quake  
 quaker  
 quakerism  
 quaking

## Q U

qualification  
 qualify  
 quality  
 qualm  
 quandary  
 quantity  
 quarantine  
 quarrel  
 quarreler  
 quarrelsome  
 quarry  
 quart  
 quartan  
 quarter  
 quarter-day  
 quarteridge  
 quarterly  
 quarter-master  
 quarter-round  
 quarter-session  
 quatern  
 quarter-staff  
 quarto  
 quash  
 quaternion  
 quaver  
 quean  
 queen  
 queer  
 quell  
 quench  
 quenchable  
 quencher  
 querent  
 querist  
 querulous  
 query  
 quest  
 question  
 questionable  
 questionless  
 questor  
 quibble  
 quick  
 quicken  
 quickly  
 quickness

## Q U

quicksand  
 quickset  
 quicksilver  
 quick-sig  
 quick-wit  
 quiescent  
 quiescent  
 quiet  
 quietism  
 quietist  
 quietly  
 quietness  
 quill  
 quilt  
 quince  
 quinsy  
 quintal  
 quintessence  
 quire  
 quirister  
 quit  
 quirk  
 quit-cla  
 quite  
 quit-re  
 quiver  
 quoits  
 quorum  
 quota  
 quoted  
 quotient  
 R  
 Rabbi  
 Rabbini  
 rabbit  
 rabble  
 race  
 racket  
 racoon  
 radiant  
 radiant  
 radical  
 radical  
 radish  
 radius  
 raffle  
 rafters



Q U  
 quicksand  
 quickset  
 quicksilver  
 quick-sighted  
 quick-witted  
 quiescence  
 quiescent  
 quiet  
 quietism  
 quietist  
 quietly  
 quietness  
 quill  
 quilt  
 quince  
 quinsy  
 quintal  
 quintessence  
 quire  
 quirister  
 quit  
 quirk  
 quit-claim  
 quite  
 quit-rent  
 quiver  
 quoits.  
 quorum  
 quota  
 quoted  
 quotient

R  
 Rabbi  
 Rabbin  
 rabbit  
 rabble  
 race  
 racket  
 racoon  
 radiancy  
 radiant  
 radical  
 radicate  
 radish  
 radius  
 raffle  
 rasters

R A  
 rage  
 rag-bolts  
 ragamuffin  
 ragged  
 rag-man  
 ragoo  
 rail  
 raillery  
 raiment  
 rainbow  
 rain-deer  
 raise  
 raising  
 rafins  
 rake  
 rake-hell  
 rakish  
 ramble  
 ramify  
 rammer  
 rampant  
 rampart  
 rancid  
 rancour  
 random  
 ranger  
 rank  
 rankle  
 ranfack  
 ransom  
 ransomer  
 rapacious  
 rapid  
 rapidity  
 rapine  
 rapture  
 rarely  
 rarity  
 rascal  
 rascally  
 rashness  
 rasor  
 ratafia  
 rather  
 ratification  
 ratify  
 rational

Z 3

R E  
 ratsbane  
 rattle  
 rattle-snake  
 ravelin  
 raven  
 raving-mad  
 ravisher  
 ravishment  
 raze  
 reach  
 re-action  
 readiness  
 re-admission  
 re-admit  
 real  
 reality  
 realize  
 realm  
 re-animate  
 re-ascend  
 reaper  
 rear-guard  
 reason  
 re-assemble  
 re-assign  
 re-assume  
 re-baptize  
 rebate  
 rebatement  
 rebel  
 rebellious  
 rebound  
 rebuff  
 rebuild  
 rebuke  
 recal  
 recant  
 recantation  
 recapitulate  
 recede  
 receive  
 receiver  
 recent  
 receptacle  
 recess  
 recipe  
 reciprocal

R E  
 reciprocal  
 recital  
 recitative  
 recite  
 reckoning  
 reclaim  
 recline  
 reclude  
 recognition  
 recognize  
 recoil  
 recollect  
 recollection  
 recommend  
 recommendation  
 recompense  
 recompensate  
 recompose  
 reconciliation  
 reconcileable  
 reconnoitre  
 record  
 recorder  
 recover  
 recoverable  
 recount  
 recourse  
 recreate  
 recruit  
 rectangular  
 rectify  
 rectitude  
 rector  
 rectory  
 recumbent  
 recurrent  
 recussion  
 reddish  
 redeem  
 Redeemer  
 re-deliverance  
 redemption  
 redouble  
 redound  
 redress  
 Red-sea  
 reduce

R E  
 reduction  
 redundant  
 re-edify  
 re-entrance  
 re-establish  
 re-examination  
 reference  
 refinement  
 reflection  
 reformation  
 refractory  
 refresh  
 refuge  
 refusal  
 refuse  
 regain  
 regale  
 regality  
 regard  
 regeneration  
 regiment  
 region  
 register  
 regret  
 regular  
 rehearse  
 reject  
 reign  
 reimbark  
 rejoin  
 rejoice  
 reiteration  
 relapse  
 relation  
 release  
 relent  
 reliance  
 relief  
 religion  
 relinquish  
 reluctant  
 remain  
 remarkable  
 remedy  
 remember  
 remission  
 remit

R E  
 remnant  
 remonstrate  
 remorse  
 remote  
 removeable  
 rencounter  
 rendezvous  
 renegado  
 renew  
 renovation  
 renounce  
 renown  
 rent  
 repair  
 repartee  
 repeal  
 repentance  
 repetition  
 reply  
 reprieve  
 reprimand  
 reprint  
 reproach  
 reprobate  
 reproof  
 republic  
 repugnant  
 repulse  
 repulse  
 request  
 require  
 resemble  
 resent  
 reserve  
 residence  
 residue  
 resign  
 resolve  
 resolute  
 resource  
 respect  
 restore  
 restraint  
 result  
 resurrection  
 retinue  
 retirement

S A  
 revenge  
 revenue  
 review  
 revive  
 revolution  
 rhapsody  
 rheumat  
 rich  
 riddle  
 ride  
 ridiculous  
 rigging  
 righteous  
 rigour  
 rind  
 rinse  
 river  
 robe  
 robust  
 rogue  
 romanti  
 Rome  
 room  
 rottenne  
 roughne  
 royal  
 rude  
 ruminat  
 runaga  
 rupture  
 ruth  
 rusticit  
 rye  
 S  
 Sabellia  
 Sabines  
 fable  
 fabre  
 sacerdo  
 sackclo  
 sacram  
 sacred  
 sacrific  
 sacrileg  
 fadden  
 saddle  
 Saddu

## S A

revenge  
revenue  
review  
revive  
revolution  
rhapsody  
rheumatism  
rich  
riddle  
ride  
ridiculous  
rigging  
righteous  
rigour  
rind  
rinse  
river  
robe  
robust  
rogue  
romantic  
Rome  
room  
rottenness  
roughness  
royal  
rude  
ruminate  
runagate  
rupture  
rush  
rusticity  
rye

## S

Sabellians  
Sabines  
fable  
fabre  
sacerdotal  
sackcloth  
sacrament  
sacred  
sacrifice  
sacrilege  
fadden  
faddle  
Sadducee

## S A

safe-conduct  
safe-guard  
saffron  
sagacious  
sage  
Sagittary  
sainfoin  
salamander  
salary  
sale  
salesman  
salique  
salivate  
sally-port  
salmagundy  
salmon  
salter  
saltpetre  
salvage  
salubrious  
salver  
salvo  
salutary  
Samaria  
Samaritan  
Samech  
samphire  
sampler  
sanctification  
sanction  
sanctuary  
sandbag  
sand-blind  
sand-eels  
sandy  
sanguin  
sanhedrim  
sanity  
sapless  
sapphire  
saraband  
Saracen  
sarcasm  
sarcastically  
sarfenet  
sassafras  
Satan

## S C

satchel  
satellite  
satiare  
satiated  
satiety  
satire  
satirically  
satirist  
satisfaction  
satisfy  
sattin  
Saturday  
Saturn  
Saturnine  
savage  
saucelox  
saucer  
sauciness  
sausage  
save-all  
saving  
saviour  
saunter  
savoury  
Savoy  
Savoyard  
Saxon  
Saxony  
scab  
scabbard  
scabbed  
scabbiness  
scaffold  
scalado  
scalding-hot  
scalp  
scamper  
scandal  
scandalous  
scantiness  
scar  
scarce  
scaramouch  
scarcity  
scare-crow  
scarify  
scarlet



## S C

scatter  
scavenger  
scene  
sceptic  
sceptre  
scheme  
schism  
schismatic  
scholar  
scholastic  
scholiast  
school  
school-divine  
school-man  
scholastical  
schirrhous  
science  
scimeter  
scissars  
scoffers  
scold  
scollop-shell  
sconce  
scooper  
scurbutic  
score  
scorch  
scornful  
scorpion  
scoundrel  
scourge  
scout  
scraggy  
scramble  
scrap  
scraper  
scratch  
screach  
screen  
scribe  
scriptural  
scripturist  
scriviner  
scrophulous  
scrutiny  
scrutoire  
scud-away

## S E

scuffle  
sculk  
scull  
scullion  
sculpture  
scum  
scupper-hole  
scurrilous  
scurvy  
scutcheon  
Scythian  
scythe  
sea-chart  
sea-faring  
sea-green  
seal  
seamster  
sea port  
search  
sear-cloth  
seasonable  
Sebastian  
secant  
secession  
secrecy  
seclusion  
secondary  
secret  
secretary  
sect  
sectarian  
section  
secular  
secure  
sedan  
sedate  
sediment  
seditious  
seducer  
seduction  
feed  
seek  
seem  
feethe  
seize  
seizure  
seldom

## S H

select  
self  
selfish  
self-evident  
selvage  
semblance  
femicircle  
femicolon  
feminal  
seminary  
femi-vowel  
senate  
send  
senority  
se'en-night  
sensation  
sense  
sensitivity  
sensitive  
sensory  
sensuality  
sent  
sentence  
sentiment  
separation  
sepulchre  
sephaphic  
serenity  
sergeant  
service  
settlement  
severity  
shabby  
shackles  
shadow  
shallow  
shalloon  
shambles  
shame-faced  
sharper  
sharp-sighted  
sharp-witted  
shatter  
shaver  
shear-man  
sheep-cote  
sheepish

## S I

shelf  
shelter  
shepherd  
shepherd  
sheriff  
sherry  
shew-bre  
shield  
shifter  
shilling  
Shiloh  
shin-bon  
shingle  
shipwash  
shipwreck  
shitten  
shittle-co  
shopkeeper  
shoplift  
short-sig  
shoulder  
shoulder  
shoulder  
shrewdl  
shriek  
shrivelle  
shrubby  
shudder  
shyness  
Sicilian  
Sicily  
sickness  
side-bo  
sightles  
signal  
signet  
significa  
signify  
silence  
silent  
silliness  
silver-f  
simonia  
simper  
simplic  
simplet  
simulat  
sincere

## S I

shelf  
shelter  
shepherd  
shepherdess  
sheriff  
sherry  
shew-bread  
shield  
shifter  
shilling  
Shiloh  
shin-bone  
shingle  
shipwash  
shipwreck  
shitten  
shittle-cock  
shopkeeper  
shoplifting  
short-sighted  
shoulder  
shoulder-knot  
shrewdly  
shriek  
shrivelled  
shrubby  
shudder  
shyness  
Sicilian  
Sicily  
sickness  
side-board  
sightless  
signal  
signet  
signification  
signify  
silence  
silent  
silliness  
silver-smith  
simoniacal  
simper  
simplicity  
simpleton  
simulation  
sincere

## S P

sinew  
singleness  
singularity  
sixteenthly  
skeleton  
skilfulness  
skirmisher  
skittishness  
sky-colour  
slab  
slacken  
slanderous  
slaughter  
slavishness  
sleeveless  
slightness  
slippery  
sloe-worm  
slothful  
slug-gard  
slumber  
smoothness  
snap-dragon  
sneaking  
sobriety  
society  
solemnization  
solitude  
solicitude  
songster  
sophistical  
sorcery  
sordid  
sorrowful  
spacious  
spangle  
Spaniard  
sparkle  
speaker  
specific  
spectator  
speculation  
speech  
Sphinx  
spinage  
spinal  
spindle

## S P

spinet  
spinner  
spinster  
spire  
spirit  
spiritual  
spirituality  
spit  
piteful  
spittle  
splash  
splatch  
spay-footed  
spleen  
splendid  
splendor  
splenetic  
splice  
split  
spoil  
spoke  
spokesman  
spoliation  
spondee  
sponsal  
sponior  
spontaneous  
spoon  
spoutful  
spot  
spotless  
spouse  
spout  
sprain  
sprat  
sprawl  
spray  
spread  
sprig  
spright  
spring  
spring-tide  
sprinkle  
spirit-sail  
sprout  
spruce  
spue

## S T

spume  
spun  
spunge  
spunk  
spur  
spurious  
spurn  
spurt  
sputter  
spy  
squab  
squabble  
squadron  
squander  
square  
squash  
squat  
squawl  
squeak  
squeal  
squeamish  
squeeze  
squib  
squill  
squint-eyed  
squire  
squirt  
stab  
stable  
stack  
stage  
tagger  
stagnant  
stagnate  
Stagyrite  
staid  
stain  
stairs  
stake  
stale  
stalk  
stall  
stammer  
stamp  
stanch  
stand  
standish

## S T

standard  
stank  
stanza  
staple  
star-board  
starch  
stare  
starry  
start  
start-up  
starve  
stately  
statesman  
stationer  
statue  
statute  
stature  
stave  
stay maker  
steadiness  
steak  
steal  
steam  
stedfast  
steed  
steel  
steep  
steeple  
steer  
steersman  
stem  
stench  
step  
stepfather  
stepmother  
steril  
sterling  
stern  
stew  
steward  
stick  
stickle  
stiffness  
stifle  
stigmatize  
stile  
still-born

## S T

stimulate  
sting  
stink  
stint  
stipend  
stipulate  
stir  
stirrup  
stitch  
stiver  
stock  
stockings  
stoic  
stole  
stomach  
stomacher  
stone  
stood  
stook  
stool  
stoop  
stop  
storehouse  
stork  
storm  
story  
stove  
stoutness  
stowage  
straddle  
straggle  
straight  
strain  
straitness  
strake  
strand  
strange  
stranger  
strangle  
strap  
strawberry  
stray  
streak  
stream  
street  
strength  
strenuous

## S T

strefs  
stretch  
strew  
stricken  
strictness  
stride  
strife  
strike  
string  
stripe  
strive  
stroke  
stroll  
strong  
struck  
struggle  
strumpet  
strung  
stubbed  
stubble  
stubborn  
stuck  
stud  
student  
study  
stuff  
stumble  
stupendo  
stupid  
stupify  
stupidity  
stupratic  
stutterin  
styptic  
suasion  
subactio  
subalter  
sub-con  
subdivi  
subdue  
subject  
subjunct  
sub-lie  
sublim  
submen  
submit  
subord



## S T

stress  
stretch  
strew  
stricken  
strictness  
stride  
strife  
strike  
string  
stripe  
strive  
stroke  
stroll  
strong  
struck  
struggle  
strumpet  
strung  
stubbed  
stubble  
stubborn  
stuck  
stud  
student  
study  
stuff  
stumble  
stupendous  
stupid  
stupify  
stupidity  
stupration  
stuttering  
styptic  
suasion  
subaction  
subaltern  
sub-consequence  
subdivision  
subdue  
subjection  
subjunctive  
sub-lieutenant  
sublimation  
submersion  
submissive  
subordinate

## S U

subscription  
subsequent  
subservient  
subside  
substantial  
subterraneous  
subtilty  
subtraction  
succeed  
sucedaneous  
successful  
succinct  
succour  
succulent  
succumbent  
sudorific  
sufficient  
suffumigation  
suggestion  
suitable  
sulphureous  
summary  
sumptuous  
Sunderland  
superadventure  
super-annuate  
super-annuation  
super-eminence  
super-excellent  
superficial  
superfluous  
super-intendant  
superior  
superlative  
supernumerary  
superstitious  
supervention  
supplement  
supportable  
suppressor  
supreme  
sure  
surfeit  
surgeon  
surpassing  
surround  
suspect

## S Y

suspicious  
sustenance  
swagger  
swarm  
swear  
sweep-stake  
sweet-heart  
swelling  
swept  
swim  
swimmer  
swine-herd  
swinish  
switch  
Switzerland  
sword  
swordsmen  
sycophant  
syllable  
syllabub  
syllabically  
syllogism  
sylogistical  
symbol  
symbolical  
symmetry  
sympathetic  
sympathize  
sympathy  
symphony  
symptom  
synagogue  
synod  
synodical  
synonymous  
synopsis  
syntax  
synthesis  
synthetical  
syringe  
syrup  
system

## T

Tabernacle  
table  
tablature  
tabular

## T A

tackle  
tackling  
tailor  
tale-bearer  
tally  
talisman  
talkative  
tallow  
tally-man  
Talmud  
Talmudical  
tamarind  
tame  
tamely  
tamper  
tankard  
tantalize  
tap  
tapestry  
tapeſter  
tarantula  
target  
tarniſh  
tart  
tartan  
Tartar  
Tartary  
taſſel  
taſteleſs  
taſter  
tatters  
taterdemallion  
tattoo  
taunting  
tauntingly  
tautology  
taudry  
tawny  
tax  
taxation  
teachable  
teacher  
team  
technical  
technology  
tedious  
tediouſneſs

## T E

telescope  
temper  
temperate  
tempeſt  
tempeſtuous  
templar  
temple  
temporal  
temporize  
temptation  
tenable  
tenacious  
tenandry  
tenant  
tenantable  
tendency  
tender  
tender-hearted  
tenderly  
tenderneſs  
tenement  
Teneriff  
Teraphim  
termagant  
termination  
terraqueous  
terreſtrial  
terrible  
terrification  
terrify  
territory  
terror  
teſtaceous  
teſtament  
teſtamentary  
teſtify  
teſtimonial  
teſtify  
tether  
texture  
Thames  
thankful  
thankfulneſs  
theatre  
theatrical  
theme  
theocracy

## T H

theocratical  
theologian  
thereafter  
thereby  
thereupon  
thermometer  
thermoſcope  
thicken  
thicket  
thickneſs  
thief  
thieviſh  
thimble  
thinker  
thinking  
thirſty  
thriftineſs  
thiſtle  
thornback  
though  
thorough  
thought  
thoughtfulneſs  
thoutand  
thraldom  
threadbare  
threefold  
threſher  
threſhold  
thrive  
throng  
throatle  
throwſter  
Thummin  
Thursday  
thwart  
ticking  
ticket  
tickling  
tidings  
tight  
tightneſs  
tillage  
tilt-boat  
tilt-yard  
timbrel  
timorous

T  
timor  
tinker  
tinctu  
tinder  
tinge  
tingle  
tinſel  
tippet  
tippie  
tirefor  
tirewe  
titillat  
title  
titmor  
titular  
tobacco  
tobacco  
togeth  
toilfor  
toilfor  
Toled  
tolera  
tolera  
tolera  
tolbo  
tongu  
tongu  
tooth  
tooth  
tooth  
topaz  
toper  
Toph  
topog  
topſy  
torme  
torme  
torre  
torric  
torto  
tortu  
Torr  
totter  
touch  
tough  
tough  
tourn

## T O

timorousness  
tinker  
tincture  
tinder  
tinge  
tingle  
tinsel  
tippet  
tipple  
tire some  
tire woman  
titillation  
title  
titmouse  
titular  
tobacco  
tobacconist  
together  
toil some  
toil some ness  
Toledo  
tolerable  
toleration  
tolerating  
tolbooth  
tongue  
tongue-tied  
tooth  
tooth-ach  
toothsome  
topaz  
toper  
Tophet  
topography  
topsy-turvy  
tormentor  
tormenting  
torrent  
torrid  
tortoise  
torture  
Torry  
tottering  
touchstone  
tough  
toughly  
tournaments

## T R

towards  
tower  
township  
toyman  
trace  
tractable  
tractate  
trade  
tradesman  
trade-wind  
tradition  
traduce  
traffic  
tragedy  
tragedian  
tragi-comedy  
tragi-comical  
tragical  
train  
train-bands  
train-oil  
traitor  
traiterous  
trample  
tranquil  
tranquility  
transaction  
transcend  
transcendency  
transcribe  
transcript  
transfer  
transferable  
transfiguration  
transfigure  
transfuse  
transgress  
transgression  
transgressor  
transient  
transiently  
transition  
transit  
transitory  
translate  
translated  
translation

## T R

transmigration  
transmit  
transmutable  
transparent  
transpiration  
transpire  
transplant  
transport  
transporter  
transpose  
transposer  
transposition  
transubstantiation  
transverse  
trappings  
trash  
traveller  
traverse  
treacherous  
treachery  
treacle  
treasonable  
treasure  
treatise  
treatment  
tremble  
tremendous  
trepan  
trepidation  
trespass  
tresses  
tribulation  
tribunal  
trick  
trident  
triennial  
trifling  
trigonometry  
trimmings  
Trinitarians  
Trinity  
trinkets  
Tripoly  
trivial  
triumph  
trophy  
tropics



V A  
troublesome  
truant  
truce  
trumpet  
trustiness  
Tubal  
tucker  
tulip  
tumble  
tumour  
tumult  
turban  
turnpike  
turpentine  
turret  
turtle  
Tweed  
twilight  
twins  
tutor  
typographical  
typography  
tyrannical  
tyrannically  
tyrannize  
tyrant  
tyranny  
tyrannicalness  
tyro

## V and U

vacancy  
vacation  
vacuity  
vacuum  
vade-mecum  
vagabond  
vagary  
vagrant  
vague  
vain-glorious  
vain-gloriousness  
valedictory  
valet  
valerian  
valetudinary  
valiant  
valid

V E  
validity  
valley  
valorous  
valour  
valuable  
valuation  
value  
Vandal  
vane  
van-guard  
vanish  
vanquish  
vaporate  
vapour  
vapouring  
variable  
variance  
variation  
variegated  
variety  
varlet  
varnish  
vary  
vassel  
vastness  
Vatican  
Vaudois  
vault  
vaulter  
ubiquity  
udder  
veal  
veer  
vegetables  
vegative  
vehemence  
vehicle  
vein  
vellum  
velocity  
velvet  
venal  
vendible  
venerable  
veneration  
venereal  
venery

V E  
Venetian  
vengeance  
venial  
Venice  
venison  
venom  
venomous  
ventilator  
ventricle  
venturefome  
venturous  
Venus  
veracity  
verb  
verbal  
verbatim  
verberate  
verberation  
verbose  
verbosity  
verdant  
verdegrease  
verdict  
verditor  
verdure  
verger  
verity  
verity  
verjuice  
vermicular  
vermiculation  
vermillion  
vermin  
vernacular  
vernal  
verse  
versicle  
verification  
verlify  
version  
vertex  
vertical  
vertiginous  
vertigo  
vervain  
very  
vesicle

V  
vesicato  
vespers  
vessel  
vest  
Vesta  
vestal  
vestiga  
vestige  
vestmen  
vestry  
vestry-  
vesture  
vetches  
veteran  
vexatio  
vexatio  
ugly  
ugliness  
vial  
viands  
viaticu  
vibrate  
vibrati  
vicar  
vicarag  
vicario  
vicarsh  
vice-ad  
vice-ch  
viceger  
vicero  
vicinag  
vicinity  
vicious  
vicissit  
victim  
victor  
victori  
victory  
victual  
victual  
Vienna  
vie  
view  
vigil  
vigilan  
vigilan

## V I

vesicatory  
 vespers  
 vessel  
 vest  
 Vesta  
 vestal  
 vestigate  
 vestige  
 vestment  
 vestry  
 vestry-man  
 vesture  
 vetches  
 veteran  
 vexation  
 vexatious  
 ugly  
 ugliness  
 vial  
 viands  
 viaticum  
 vibrate  
 vibration  
 vicar  
 vicarage  
 vicarious  
 vicarship  
 vice-admiral  
 vice-chancellor  
 vicegerent  
 viceroy  
 vicinage  
 vicinity  
 vicious  
 vicissitude  
 victim  
 victor  
 victorious  
 victory  
 victualler  
 victuals  
 Vienna  
 vie  
 view  
 vigil  
 vigilant  
 vigilance

## V I

vigorous  
 vigour  
 vileness  
 vilify  
 village  
 villager  
 villain  
 villanous  
 villany  
 vincible  
 vindication  
 vindictive  
 vine  
 vineyard  
 vinegar  
 vintage  
 vintner  
 viol  
 violable  
 violation  
 violence  
 violate  
 violent  
 violin  
 viper  
 virago  
 virgin  
 virginals  
 Virginia  
 virginity  
 virid  
 virile  
 virility  
 virtual  
 virtue  
 virtuoso  
 virtuous  
 virtuously  
 virulency  
 virulent  
 virulently  
 virulentness  
 visage  
 visard  
 viscera  
 viscount  
 viscountess

A a z

## V I

viscous  
 visibility  
 visibleness  
 visible  
 visier  
 vision  
 visionary  
 visit  
 visitation  
 visitor  
 visor  
 visual  
 vital  
 vitiate  
 vitiousness  
 vitrify  
 vitriol  
 vitreous  
 vituline  
 vivacious  
 vivacity  
 vivid  
 vivification  
 vivify  
 viviparous  
 vixen  
 vizard  
 ulcerate  
 ulceration  
 ulcerous  
 ullage  
 ulterior  
 ultimate  
 umber  
 umbrage  
 umbrella  
 umpire  
 unacceptable  
 unaccountable  
 unaccustomed  
 unacquainted  
 unactive  
 unactivity  
 unadvised  
 unadvisable  
 unaffected  
 unaided

## U N

unalterable  
 unanimity  
 unanimous  
 unanswerable  
 unappeased  
 unapt  
 unarmed  
 unarrayed  
 unassisted  
 unattainable  
 unavailable  
 unavowed  
 unavoidable  
 unawaked  
 unawares  
 unbecoming  
 unbegotten  
 unbelief  
 unbeliever  
 unbend  
 unbidden  
 unblameable  
 unbloody  
 unboiled  
 unbound  
 unbridled  
 unbutton  
 uncapable  
 uncertain  
 unchangeable  
 uncharitable  
 unchaste  
 unchristened  
 unchurched  
 uncircumspect  
 uncivil  
 unclasp  
 unclean  
 unclose  
 uncomfortable  
 uncommon  
 unconcerned  
 uncondemned  
 unconquerable  
 unconquered  
 unconsionable

## U N

unconstant  
 unconstrained  
 uncontrollable  
 uncover  
 uncourteous  
 uncouth  
 uncrowned  
 unctious  
 uncultivated  
 uncustomed  
 undaunted  
 undecided  
 undefiled  
 underling  
 undermine  
 understand  
 undertake  
 undervalue  
 undervalument  
 under-written  
 undeserved  
 undisciplined  
 undistinguishable  
 undiscovered  
 undivided  
 undoubted  
 undress  
 undulation  
 unduly  
 undutiful  
 uneasy  
 unequal  
 uneloquent  
 unemployed  
 unerring  
 uneven  
 unexecuted  
 unexpected  
 unexpert  
 unexpressible  
 unfairly  
 unfaithful  
 unfashioned  
 unfasten  
 unfeigned  
 unfenced  
 unfinished

## U N

unsifted  
 unfold  
 unformed  
 unforeseen  
 unfortunate  
 unfriendly  
 unfruitful  
 ungainful  
 ungarnished  
 ungenteel  
 ungird  
 ungodliness  
 ungovernable  
 ungracious  
 ungrateful  
 unguent  
 uninhabitable  
 unhallowed  
 unhandfomely  
 unhandy  
 unhappily  
 unhappy  
 unharbour  
 unharnessed  
 unhealthful  
 unheard  
 unholy  
 unhook  
 unhorse  
 unhusbanded  
 unicorn  
 uniformity  
 union  
 unison  
 unitarian  
 unity  
 universe  
 university  
 unjust  
 unkind  
 unknown  
 unladed  
 unlamented  
 unlawful  
 unlearn  
 unlearned  
 unleavened

## U

unlicent  
 unlike  
 unlimite  
 unload  
 unlook  
 unlook  
 unloose  
 unlovel  
 unlucky  
 unlucki  
 unmanly  
 unmann  
 unmarr  
 unmask  
 unmatch  
 unmeas  
 unmerc  
 unmind  
 unmove  
 unmoul  
 unnatur  
 unneces  
 unneed  
 unoccup  
 unoppo  
 unorder  
 unpaid  
 unparal  
 unpard  
 unpeac  
 unpeop  
 unperc  
 unplea  
 unpoli  
 unpren  
 unpreju  
 unprec  
 unprep  
 unprev  
 unprof  
 unprof  
 unprov  
 unpun  
 unpun  
 unquer  
 unquie  
 unraye



## U N

unlicensed  
 unlike  
 unlimited  
 unload  
 unlook  
 unlooked  
 unloose  
 unlovely  
 unlucky  
 unluckily  
 unmanly  
 unmannerly  
 unmarried  
 unmasked  
 unmatched  
 unmeasurable  
 unmerciful  
 unmindful  
 unmoveable  
 unmould  
 unnatural  
 unnecessary  
 unneedful  
 unoccupied  
 unopposed  
 unorderedly  
 unpaid  
 unparallelled  
 unpardonable  
 unpeaceably  
 unpeople  
 unperceivable  
 unpleasing  
 unpolished  
 unpremeditated  
 unprejudiced  
 unprecedented  
 unprepared  
 unprevented  
 unprofitable  
 unprosperous  
 unprovided  
 unpruned  
 unpurged  
 unquenched  
 unquiet  
 unravel

## U N

unready  
 unreasonable  
 unrebukeable  
 unreclaimed  
 unreformed  
 unregardful  
 unrelenting  
 unremitted  
 unremoved  
 unrepaired  
 unresolved  
 unrespectful  
 unrevenge  
 unrewarded  
 unrighteous  
 unruly  
 unsaddle  
 unsafe  
 unsaid  
 unsanctified  
 unsatisfactory  
 unfavoury  
 unscriptural  
 unsealed  
 unsearchable  
 unseemly  
 unserviceable  
 unsettled  
 unshaded  
 unshaken  
 unshaven  
 unshod  
 unskilful  
 unfociable  
 unfold  
 unfolid  
 unsound  
 unspeakable  
 unspent  
 unspotted  
 unstable  
 unstained  
 unsteady  
 unstirred  
 unstop  
 unstring  
 unsuccessful

## U N

unsuitable  
 unsure  
 untaken  
 untamed  
 untanned  
 unteacheable  
 untenable  
 unthankful  
 unthinking  
 unthoughtful  
 unthrifty  
 until  
 untilled  
 untimely  
 untoward  
 untowardly  
 untractable  
 untried  
 untrimmed  
 untrodden  
 untrue  
 untruth  
 untrustiness  
 untunable  
 unveil  
 unusual  
 unutterable  
 unwary  
 unwashen  
 unwatered  
 unwearied  
 unwedded  
 unwelcome  
 unwholesome  
 unwieldy  
 unwilling  
 unwind  
 unwise  
 unworn  
 unworthy  
 unwound  
 unwritten  
 unyoke  
 vocabulary  
 vocal  
 vocation  
 vogue

## U S

voice  
void  
volatile  
volition  
volley  
volubility  
volume  
voluntary  
volunteer  
voluptuous  
vomit  
voracious  
vortex  
votary  
votive  
voucher  
vouchsafe  
vow  
vowel  
voyage  
upbraid  
uphold  
upholsterer  
upright  
uproar  
upshot  
upside  
upstart  
upward  
urbanity  
urge  
urgent  
urinal  
urine  
urn  
usage  
usance  
use  
usefulness  
usher  
usual  
usurp  
usurpation  
usurer  
usury  
utensils  
utility

## W A

utmost  
Utopian  
utterance  
vulgar  
vulnerable  
vulnerable  
vulture  
uvula  
uxorious  
Uzziah  
Uzziel  
W  
Waddle  
wafer  
waft  
wager  
waggoner  
wain  
waincoat  
waist  
waiter  
wait  
wakeful  
walk  
wall  
wallet  
Walloons  
wallop  
willow  
wallowish  
walnut  
wamble  
wander  
wanton  
wantonnefs  
war  
warble  
warden  
wardenship  
wardmote  
wardrobe  
ware  
warefare  
wariness  
warv  
warlike  
warm

## W A

warmness  
warmth  
warp  
warrant  
warrener  
warrior  
wart  
wash-ball  
washing  
wasp  
wasplish  
wasplishness  
waft  
waste  
wastefully  
wastefulness  
watch  
watcher  
watchful  
watchfulness  
water  
watermeasure  
water-poise  
water-gage  
watergang  
waterish  
waterishness  
watery  
wave  
waver  
wavering  
wax  
waxen  
way  
wayfaring  
way-lay  
way-mark  
wayward  
weak  
weaken  
weakly  
weakness  
weal  
wealth  
wealthy  
wean  
weaning

## W

weapon  
wear  
wearied  
wearily  
wearing  
wearisome  
weary  
weasand  
weasel  
weather  
weather  
weather  
weather  
weave  
weaver  
weaving  
web  
website  
wed  
wedding  
wedge  
wedlock  
Wednesday  
weed  
weede  
week  
week  
ween  
weep  
weep  
weep  
weevil  
west  
weight  
weight  
weight  
weight  
Welsh  
welch  
weld  
weld  
welfare  
well  
well  
well

W E  
 weapon  
 wear  
 wearied  
 wearily  
 weariness  
 wearisome  
 weary  
 weasand  
 weasel  
 weather  
 weather-board  
 weather-cock  
 weather-gage  
 weather-glass  
 weather-wise  
 weave  
 weaver  
 weaving  
 web  
 webster  
 wed  
 wedding  
 wedge  
 wedlock  
 Wednesday  
 weed  
 weeder  
 week  
 weekly  
 ween  
 weep  
 weeper  
 weeping  
 weevil  
 west  
 weigh  
 weight  
 weightily  
 weighty  
 Welch  
 welcome  
 weld  
 welding-heat  
 welfare  
 welkin  
 well  
 well-a-day

W H  
 well-born  
 well-bread  
 well-hole  
 well-set  
 welt  
 welter  
 wen  
 wench  
 wencher  
 wenching  
 went  
 wept  
 were  
 were-wolf  
 werish  
 weasand  
 Wesel  
 West  
 westerly  
 western  
 westward  
 wet  
 wether  
 wetness  
 wet-shod  
 wetted  
 wey  
 wezand  
 whale  
 whale-fishery  
 wharf  
 wharfage  
 wharfinger  
 what  
 wheel  
 wheat  
 wheaten  
 wheedle  
 wheedler  
 wheel  
 wheel-barrow  
 wheeler  
 wheel-wright  
 wheeze  
 wheel  
 whelm  
 whelp

W H  
 whelpish  
 when  
 whence  
 whensoever  
 where  
 whereas  
 whereby  
 wherefore  
 wherein  
 whereof  
 wheresoever  
 whereto  
 whereupon  
 wherewith  
 wherry  
 whet  
 whether  
 whetstone  
 whey  
 which  
 whiff  
 whiffler  
 whig  
 whiggish  
 whiggish  
 while  
 whiles  
 whilom  
 whilst  
 whim  
 whimsical  
 whimsically  
 whimsicalness  
 whimsy  
 whine  
 whins  
 whip  
 whipster  
 whipper  
 whipping  
 whiplaw  
 whipstaff  
 whirl  
 whirligig  
 whirlpool  
 whirlwind  
 whisk



## W H

whisker  
 whisking  
 whisky  
 whisper  
 whiff  
 whistle  
 whistler  
 whit  
 white  
 whiteness  
 whiting  
 white-heart  
 white-livered  
 white-meats  
 whiten  
 whiteness  
 whither  
 whithersoever  
 whitish  
 whitlow  
 whitster  
 Whitsunday  
 Whitsuntide  
 while  
 whizz  
 whizzing  
 who  
 whole  
 wholly  
 wholesale  
 wholesome  
 wholesomeness  
 whomsoever  
 who  
 whoop  
 whore  
 whoredom  
 whoremonger  
 whorish  
 whorishly  
 whorishness  
 whorlbat  
 whose  
 whosoever  
 why  
 wick  
 wicked

## W I

wickedly  
 wickedness  
 wicker  
 wicket  
 widdle-waddle  
 wide  
 widely  
 widen  
 wideness  
 wider  
 widest  
 widow  
 widower  
 widowhood  
 width  
 wield  
 wieldiness  
 wieldy  
 wife  
 wig  
 wigmaker  
 wight  
 wild  
 wildness  
 wilding  
 wildly  
 wild-creature  
 wilderness  
 wildfire  
 wilds  
 wile  
 wilful  
 wilfully  
 wilfulness  
 wilily  
 wiliness  
 wily  
 wilk  
 will  
 willing  
 willingly  
 willingness  
 willow  
 wily  
 wimble  
 wimple  
 win

## W I

wince  
 winch  
 wind  
 wind-bound  
 windfal  
 winding  
 windlass  
 windless  
 window  
 windward  
 wine  
 wine-bibber  
 wine-grapes  
 wine-press  
 wing  
 winged  
 wink  
 winkers  
 winking  
 winnow  
 winter  
 winter-green  
 wipe  
 wiping  
 wire  
 wire-draw  
 wiseacre  
 wisdom  
 wise  
 wisely  
 wish  
 wishfully  
 wisp  
 wist  
 wit  
 witch  
 witchcraft  
 witch elm  
 wite  
 with  
 withal  
 withdraw  
 withdrawn  
 withdrew  
 withe  
 wither  
 withershins

## W

with-ho  
 with-ho  
 within  
 without  
 withsay  
 withstar  
 withy  
 witless  
 witness  
 witty  
 witticism  
 witty  
 wizzard  
 woad  
 woe  
 woeful  
 woefully  
 wolf  
 wolf's-l  
 woman  
 woman  
 woman  
 woman  
 womb  
 won  
 wonder  
 wonder  
 wonder  
 wonder  
 went  
 woo  
 wooer  
 wood  
 wood-c  
 Wood  
 wooden  
 woodm  
 woodp  
 woodro  
 woof  
 wool  
 woollen  
 word  
 wore  
 work  
 worker  
 workm  
 workm

W O  
 with-hold  
 with-holden  
 within  
 without  
 withſay  
 withſtand  
 withy  
 witleſs  
 witneſs  
 witful  
 witticiſm  
 witty  
 wizzard  
 woad  
 woe  
 woeful  
 woefully  
 wolf  
 wolf's-bane  
 woman  
 womanish  
 womanly  
 womb  
 won  
 wonder  
 wonderful  
 wonderfully  
 wonderment  
 wont  
 woo  
 wooer  
 wood  
 wood-cutter  
 Woodbridge  
 wooden  
 woodmonger  
 woodpecker  
 woodroof  
 woof  
 wool  
 woollen  
 word  
 wore  
 work  
 worker  
 workman  
 workmanſhip

W O  
 world  
 worldly  
 worldlineſs  
 worldly minded  
 worm  
 worm-eaten  
 worm-feed  
 worn  
 worry  
 worſe  
 worſhip  
 worſhipful  
 worſhipper  
 worſt  
 worſted  
 wort  
 worth  
 worthies  
 worthily  
 worthineſs  
 worthleſs  
 worthleſſneſs  
 worthy  
 wot  
 wove  
 would  
 wound  
 wrangle  
 wrangler  
 wrangling  
 wrap  
 wrapper  
 wrapping  
 wrapt  
 wraih  
 wrathful  
 wrathfully  
 wrathfulneſs  
 wreak  
 wreath  
 wreck  
 wrecked  
 wren  
 wrench  
 wreſt  
 wreſtling  
 wreſtle

W R  
 wreſtler  
 wretch  
 wretched  
 wretchedly  
 wretchedneſs  
 wriggle  
 wright  
 wring  
 wrinkle  
 wrift  
 wriftband  
 writ  
 write  
 writer  
 writhe  
 writhed  
 writing  
 written  
 wrong  
 wrongful  
 wrongfulneſs  
 wrongfully  
 wrote  
 wroth  
 wrought  
 wrung  
 wry  
 wry-necked

X  
 Xeriff  
 Xerxes  
 Xiphias  
 Xyſter

Y  
 Yacht  
 yard  
 yard-arm  
 yare  
 yarn  
 yarrow  
 yate  
 yaw  
 yawl  
 yawn  
 yawning  
 yaws  
 ye

## Y E

yea  
yea  
year  
yearling  
yearly  
yearn  
yearning  
yeast  
yell  
yellow  
yellowish  
yellowness  
yelp  
yeoman  
yeomanry  
yerk  
yes  
yesterday  
yesternight  
yet  
yew  
yew-berries  
yew-bush

## Y O

yield  
yielding  
yieldingness  
yoke  
yoke-fellow  
yoke-mate  
yolk  
yon  
yonder  
yonker  
yore  
York  
you  
young  
younger  
youngest  
youngling  
youngster  
your  
youth  
youthful  
youthfully  
youthfulness

## Z E

yucca  
yule  
yule-game  
yule-time  
Z  
Zany  
zeal  
zealot  
zealous  
zealously  
zealousness  
Zealand  
Zebra  
Zechariah  
zechin  
zenith  
zephyr  
zingiber  
zodiac  
zone  
zoology  
zoophite  
zootomy



Explana

Note, A

Ans.

A. D

the year

Acct.

Abt.

Agt.

B. A

Bp.

B. D

nity

Bart.

Chap.

D. L

Dr.

Esq;

i. e.

Emp

Hon

Kt.

L. L

M. I

Mr.

But

much

and w

at leng

master

respect

and is

above

N

which

viz. 1

and c



*Explanation of common abbreviations or contraction of words.*

*Note, A point, or full stop, is always to be written after a word thus abbreviated.*

|                                                       |                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Anf. Answer</i>                                    | <i>Mrs. Mistress</i>                                          |
| <i>A. D. Anno Domini, or<br/>the year of our Lord</i> | <i>Mty. Majesty</i>                                           |
| <i>Acct. for account</i>                              | <i>Obj. Objection</i>                                         |
| <i>Abt. about</i>                                     | <i>Quest. Question</i>                                        |
| <i>Agt. against</i>                                   | <i>Rev. Reverend</i>                                          |
| <i>B. A. Bachelor of arts</i>                         | <i>S. T. P. Professor of, or<br/>Doctor in divinity</i>       |
| <i>Bp. Bishop</i>                                     | <i>Sr. Sir</i>                                                |
| <i>B. D. Bachelor in divi-<br/>nity</i>               | <i>St. Saint</i>                                              |
| <i>Bart. Baronet</i>                                  | <i>Sol. Solution</i>                                          |
| <i>Chap. Chapter.</i>                                 | <i>ye. the</i>                                                |
| <i>D. D. Doctor in divinity</i>                       | <i>yt. that</i>                                               |
| <i>Dr. Doctor</i>                                     | <i>yo. you</i>                                                |
| <i>Esq; Esquire</i>                                   | <i>yn. then</i>                                               |
| <i>i. e. id est, that is</i>                          | <i>yr. your</i>                                               |
| <i>Empr. Emperor</i>                                  | <i>ym. then</i>                                               |
| <i>Hon. Honourable</i>                                | <i>&amp;c. and</i>                                            |
| <i>Kt. Knight</i>                                     | <i>Viz. videlicet, to wit, or<br/>that is to say</i>          |
| <i>L. L. D. Doctor of laws</i>                        | <i>&amp;c. et cetera, and the<br/>rest (or what follows.)</i> |
| <i>M. D. Doctor of physic</i>                         |                                                               |
| <i>Mr. Master</i>                                     |                                                               |

But one ought to avoid those contractions of words as much as possible, unless it be for one's own private use, and where it would be ridiculous to write them in letters at length; as, *&c.* for *and so forth*, or *the rest*, *Mr. master*, *Mrs. for mistress*, &c. It argues likewise a disrespect and slighting to use contractions to your betters, and is often puzzling to others, except in such cases as above mentioned.

---

*A table of NUMBERS and FIGURES.*

**N**UMBERS are usually expressed either by the seven Roman capital letters, *I. V. X. L. C. D. M.* which are called *Numerals*, or by these ten characters, *viz. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9*, which are called *Figures*, and *0*, which is a *Cipher*.

*Their*

*Their Signification.*

I. One. V. Five. X. Ten. L. Fifty. C. a hundred.  
D. Five Hundred. M. a Thousand.

1. One. 2. Two. 3. Three. 4. Four. 5. Five. 6. Six.  
7. Seven. 8. Eight. 9. Nine. 0. Nothing.

Observe concerning the *Numeral Letters*, that if a less *Numeral Letter* be placed before a greater, it takes away from the greater so much as the lesser stands for; but being placed after a greater, it adds so much to it as the lesser stands for; as the letter V stands for *Five*; but having I placed before it, it takes *One* from it, and makes both stand but for *Four*; thus IV. But I, being set after V, adds *One* to it, and makes it thus, *Six*, VI.

Take notice of these examples.

|           |           |                     |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| IV Four   | V Five    | VI Six              |
| IX Nine   | X Ten     | XI Eleven           |
| XL Forty  | L Fifty   | LX Sixty            |
| XC Ninety | C Hundred | CX Hundred and Ten. |

Observe, concerning the *Characters* or *Figures*, that *Ciphers* at the right hand of *Figures* increase their value ten times, as 1 One, 10 Ten, 100 Hundred, 7 Seven, 7000 Seven Thousand; but at the left hand they signify nothing at all, as 01, 001, make but *One*, 002, but *Two*.—A figure at every remove from the right hand increases its value ten times, as 9 *Nine*, 98 *Ninety eight*, 987 *Nine hundred and eighty-seven*.

Note here, that the numbers are sometimes expressed by small Roman letters, as i. one, ii. two xvi. sixteen, lxxviii. seventy-eight.

Note also, Where books, chapters, sections, and verses are cited, the numerical letters are generally used to signify the book or chapter; and the *Figures* to signify the sections, verses, or smaller parts; as *Exod. xii. 17.* Exodus, the twelfth chapter, and the seventeenth verse, So B. IX. Sect. 24. signifies Book the ninth and the twenty fourth Section.

*Figures* are also used to express the things following, viz.

1. The order, or succession of things, as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, first, second, third, &c.
2. The fractions or parts of a thing, as  $\frac{1}{2}$  one half,  $\frac{1}{3}$  one third part,  $\frac{1}{4}$  one fourth, or quarter,  $\frac{3}{4}$  three quarters,  $\frac{5}{8}$  five eights.

F I N I S.



red.

Six.

less  
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